

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 1977

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY  
Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries  
Building, Room 102  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,  
Reporter



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.  
*Stenotypists*

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 1977 at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, Room 102, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

- DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman
- MARC DUPUY, JR., Member
- J. C. GILBERT, Member
- JERRY JONES, Member
- JEAN LAPEYRE, Member
- HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Member,
- J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of March 29, 1977. (4)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request for a permit to remove sand and/or (5)  
fill material from the Mississippi River  
at Levee Station 3377 + 48 by B & S  
Materials, Inc.



*Bal Construction Company*

3. Request for renewal of a permit to remove (6)  
fill material from the Mississippi River  
on right descending bank central to a  
point about 70.5 miles AHP and about  
4.5 miles south from Belle Chasse,  
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

4. Set spring shrimp season. (8)

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

5. Discuss amendment to Rules and Regulations (64)  
for bait shrimp season.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

6. Approve allocation to Ducks Unlimited. (80)

7. Discuss establishment of Atchafalaya Bay (85)  
Wildlife Management Area.

8. Assignment of lease from Justiss Mears Oil (84)  
Company to Hunt Energy Corporation.

MR. JOE HERRING

9. Uniform Policy for Game Division. (90)

10. Revetment work on WMA Concordia Parish. (93)

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Consideration and recommendations according (97)  
to Act 576 relative to harvesting  
speckled trout and redfish by commercial



and sport fishermen.

Note: The following items not on the printed agenda were also considered:

Announcement of area closed to fishing and  
shrimping by Port of New Orleans.

Recognition of visitors.

Dates and place of May meeting..

*Special Bait Dealers Permit for  
Bordage Bros.*

(64)

(25;  
79)

(96)

(65)



CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We are glad to have you with us. We are glad to have the press here this morning. I am sure you are all aware in this audience we have two important things to do today, the shrimp season and some discussion on the gill netting. This is what makes this American process of ours work, concerned people and concerned citizens who attend these meetings and who do have input and who help give this Commission recommendations to make decisions. We are glad to have you all here with us this morning.

Gentlemen, the first item on the agenda this morning is approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 29. Do I have a motion?

MR. MARC DUPUY, JR: I so move.

MR. HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.



Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have two permit requests on the agenda. These are in the Mississippi River. They meet the requirements set forth by the Commission and I would recommend that these permits be granted.

The first one is to B & S Materials, Inc. at River Station 3377 for the taking of fill material and I would recommend they have a permit for one year at five cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. JERRY JONES: Move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made



a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to B & S MATERIALS, INC. to dredge for sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River, Levee Station 3377+48, Boothville, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from April 26, 1977 to April 26, 1978, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second request is from Bal Construction Company -- it is not shown on the agenda but this is the company involved -- on the right descending bank at 70.5 Miles AHP at Belle Chasse for the taking of fill material. I would recommend that this permit be granted for a period of one year at five cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have the recommendation. Do I hear a motion?

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: I move.

MR. JONES: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre,  
seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries  
Commission does hereby grant permission  
to BAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. to  
dredge for sand and/or fill material  
from the Mississippi River on the  
right descending bank, central to a  
point about 70.5 Miles AHP and about  
4.5 Miles south from Belle Chasse,  
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for  
a period of one year, effective  
April 29, 1977 to April 29, 1978, at  
a royalty rate of five cents per  
cubic yard.





THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will get to the setting of the spring shrimp season.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, the meeting was held Friday. For the first time in a number of years I was absent and it was handled by the other staff members. We do have some information that we would like to briefly run over to indicate what the season looks like.

Even though it started out late, cold weather, and for a long time we didn't see much activity, it appears now that we can expect a reasonably good season. It may even be a little better than average. So, with your permission, I think we will maybe run some of these slides for the group.

This shows the total catch of shrimp I think in Louisiana for a number of years as against a 17-year average, which is the line. Now you will notice that the last two or three years have been on a decline. This has been associated with high river stages and excessive amounts of fresh water. The last line that you see on there I think is 1975. The 1976 production fortunately



was well above the line. Right about there (indicating) is where the production was last year. It was above the average. It was not the highest of record but it was well up in the top 90 percent, I guess. Besides the fact that production was excellent, the shrimp were large and the prices were high. If our figures are correct, it seems like at least \$100 million was made by the shrimp industry last year in Louisiana.

We would like to see that kind of year every year but I hope you realize by now that we are not dealing with something that is provided by us; about all we do is count these animals. We hope that this year will be as good.

Now, could we look at the next slide? This shows the total catch and the value of shrimp through 1976, and you will see that the catch and the value have shifted significantly. The 1976 catch is the last one over. You will see at the line on the left both the catch and the value went up well above any amount of money we have had in the past, so I think that this substantiates the fact that last year was probably one of the best



we have had financially.

This shows something about the average annual catch of shrimp in the whole Gulf and how Louisiana stacks up in this group. You will find that the total catch in Louisiana basically, which is the middle one, is in the small shrimp area. The millions of pounds heads-off in this area far exceeds any other area, whether it is Pensacola to Louisiana, up at the top, or in the Texas area, to the bottom. The regulations in Texas force the catch to be in the middle area, rather large shrimp generally taken offshore, so this graph really shows the difference in how the two states manage it.

You will note that as you get into the very large shrimp, i.e., 15 and under and 15-20, that there is not much difference in the catch. The basic difference falls in the middle section where we catch the shrimp in the nursery ground and just offshore we are catching a smaller shrimp and the Texas people catch theirs farther out.

The key to shrimp production in Louisiana which we seem to have finally determined has to do with the amount of available land for these shrimp



to grow up in. Just like any corn crop or anything else, if you plant 50 acres you get one thing and if you plant 100 acres you may get double the amount. The thing that controls the growing area of shrimp in Louisiana is the amount of saltwater in the marshes. This varies from year to year, depending on the amount of rainfall and how high the river is upstream.

You will notice in the right-hand side of that graph over the past two or three years shrimp production has been going down and along with that drop in production has been a corresponding drop in the acreage of land, the total bars, the upright bars, which indicates that in 1973-4-5 we only had about half as much acreage as we had in prior years, to the left. In 1976 this reversed itself. We went from about 900,000 acres up to nearly 2.2 million acres, and this is reflected in the shrimp production. This is particularly true during the months of April and May when these shrimp are growing. They need to have this amount of acreage.

This year we do not have an exact figure



on this but the information we have indicates that we are approaching the 1976 acreage. It appears that we have a lot of saltwater, we have got a lot of good area, and with any amount of luck we may have a few shrimp.

There is also a correlation we have looked at over the years between the Mississippi River discharge and the shrimp catch. The average discharge is the solid line. Now when the river discharges below that solid line, we have good years of production. It means less water in the area and we also have greater amounts of acreage of nursery ground. In the poor years, which is at the top, you will find that the river discharge is either equal to or greater than the average, which indicates that we have a lesser amount of growing area.

The same thing holds true with rainfall and water temperature. As you know by now, shrimp are coldblooded animals. They don't start to grow until the water temperature gets fairly warm. If the water temperature stays below 68 degrees Fahrenheit or 20 degrees Centigrade or Celsius, they just



will not grow. The water has to get above this temperature before they start to grow.

The temperature is controlled by cold fronts that come through but we find that it is also associated with rainfall, because when these cold fronts come through we also get a lot of rain, and when you get this rain, the temperature drops. This is what happened the other day when we got these excessive rains ahead of this particular cool front now. The water temperature was high and it suddenly has dropped down in the range of 20 degrees or a little below, and it had been well above 20. This is the type thing you can expect and there is a direct correlation between this temperature and particularly in the month of April; if we get too many hours during the month of April when the water temperature is below 20 degrees, our shrimp production tends to drop. You will notice in 1973 we had a very low production and we had over 125 hours that it was below 20 degrees. Correspondingly, in 1976 the production went way up. We had practically no cold water during that month. We had a very dry spring.



This year, at least up until these rains that just happened, we had a very good temperature situation. It was almost as good as last year.

This is a complicated graph and I won't spend too much time on it. It basically shows that there are about five parameters in the environment that control shrimp. They are rainfall in March and April, the amount of salinity at St. Mary's Point as a key and in the southern part of the bay down around the coast, the river discharges and the temperature in April and the temperature after April 8.

Now basically when these lines are pointing up, meaning that they are all going up, the production is high. You will see that happen in 1976. If you go back to 1973 and '74, you will see the lines were coming down, the production was down. That is the short bar. 1977, which we are working on now, most of the lines are going up, some of them are level, a few of them are down. So we are looking at something that might be considered average. We think we may come up with production that is pretty acceptable.



The way the center part of the state goes, the way that Barataria Bay goes, pretty much indicates what goes on all over the Gulf. The solid lines in the middle represent the yearly catch in Barataria and Caminada Bay. When they are high, you will notice the total catch inshore and offshore, at the top, is high. When they are low, like in 1973, everything else went down. This is nothing unusual. We know that the bulk of the shrimp are produced between the West Pass of the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya River. About 70 percent of the total production comes from this area, so it is not unusual to expect that this area will control the total catch. What happens in here makes a big difference, and this is one of the reasons we spend a good bit of time trying to check it out.

Now let's look at some of the information we have for 1977. The first thing we need to look at is salinity. In the areas where we have been taking samples, we find that in 1977 the salt content has been well up. It has compared favorably with 1976 and with 1971, which was a bumper





year, and you can see it is well above 1973, which was a pretty bad year. This is one factor in favor of a good shrimp production.

This also deals with salinity over the whole coast, and the average salinity here in 1977 appears to be above everything else, taking in the whole coastal area. It is above '76 and even above 1971. It is way above 1973 which is the bottom, which was a bad year.

One thing we were a little bit concerned about was the post-larvae. These are the very young shrimp that move in here in January, February and March. We did not see as many coming in in the early days as we have had in prior years, but we know that the number of these is not too important as long as we get at least an average number.

If you will recall, we had a rather cold winter. It stayed with us pretty long, well up into March. We ran into another problem offshore which we didn't quite understand. Normally water temperatures in deep water, around 150 to 300 feet, do not change from summer to winter more than about



one degree or one and a half degrees. Now we ran into a situation offshore this year which we could not account for. We had some shifts in this deep water on the order of five degrees. It dropped down five or six degrees colder than normal, and this bothered us because we didn't know whether these shrimp would spawn and lay or whether the young would get in because of these cold water temperatures. We don't know why it happened. We don't think the air temperature was cold enough to drop it.. It may have been resulted from the fact that the Mississippi River was the lowest of record. It never has been this cold before, at least in recent times, and it may have had something to do with the fact that we had a low river and some kind of change in the current system off the delta.

Nevertheless, shrimp did move in. We did get the post-larvae, and we feel like we had a fairly average production and we have had some exceptionally good production in the Vermilion Bay area, which is Area 6. It is surprisingly high. The others have run about average.

Now I think the nice thing about 1977



was the fact that along toward the end of our sampling period we began to see some shrimp, and in the early days it didn't look too hot. If you notice over there in March, and way up in March, almost to the first of April, we weren't finding any shrimp at all, and it looked pretty sorry. It was down on the order of 1974, which if you will remember was a complete bust in the brown shrimp crop.

But after late March, the first of April, they began to climb and they have now reached a point where they are at least equivalent to our better years, and I hate to say it publicly because I don't know whether it is going to hold up, but in some instances we are seeing more shrimp out there than we did last year. I wouldn't say this is true over the whole coast and it would be a mistake to say that we have blanketed the area, but I think that the information now indicates that we have at least an average crop, maybe even a little better than average.

We are encouraged by this and you will note that what has happened here is that the whole



system is several weeks late. The average catch by areas shows that at least in Area 3 and Area 6 and in Area 5 -- these are the center part of the state again, Barataria Bay, Caminada Bay, Sister Lake and over in there and all the way over to Vermilion -- there are pretty good catches. We are going better than 100 per sample, which puts us up in an average year.

The shrimp in Vermilion Bay and to the west and to the east of the river, of course, are quite small. They are running several weeks behind but in the center section they seem to be growing quite well.

The growth rate is quite clear in this graph. In 1976 the growth rate was high all the way along the line. That was last year and we ended up with a big shrimp crop and big shrimp. If you will look at 1977, it is running somewhat less. The shrimp are smaller than they were last year at the same time. It simply means that whenever we open this season, they are probably going to be a little smaller or a certain percentage of them are going to be smaller than they were last



year at the same time. The 1973 growth rate was quite low and it was a bad year all the way around.

There is not much question that going by areas, the Barataria Bay area and the Terrebonne area show the largest shrimp at this time. They are running ahead by a matter of nearly an inch or more above Area 6, which is Vermilion Bay, and Area 7, which is the Cameron area, and Areas 1 and 2, which are on the east side of the river. This is classic, typical, and it is the reason why we have more than one opening date. The center part of the state is generally faster.

At the time we developed the data and projected it, this is what it looked like and this is what information was prepared for you on Friday. May 2 we won't have any shrimp big enough to fool with. May 9 we would have about 16 percent. By May 16, which is a Monday, we should have around 41 or so percent. By May 23 we expect to be up around 69 or 70 percent, and by May 30 we would be up to 92 percent. This is based on the central section. It is not based on the east and west and this chart is used for setting the initial



season and then the others follow accordingly.

Now since this was done we have had another week's sampling and we ran into some interesting information. One, the catch, particularly in Barataria Bay, went up to 270 per tow. Last year at this time in Barataria Bay it was running 142, so you are catching a considerable amount more shrimp in Barataria Bay than we did last year.

Over in Area 5 I don't have the catch rate but I do have the growth rate. In the 17th week, which was last week, the shrimp were 47.5 millimeters, which is about two inches. This week they are up to 58 millimeters, which shows they have grown ten millimeters or half an inch in a week. That means they are growing pretty fast.

In Area 6 our sample was 395 per sample, which is extremely high and it looks like we have an exceptional crop in the Vermilion Bay area. In Calcasieu Lake the temperatures of the water have dropped over there from 23 degrees down to 20 degrees in one week's time but the catch per sample has gone up, so it looks fair.

I suggest to the Commission that with



respect to Area 1, which is the center part of the state, you have an option. We recommended May 23. There are a considerable number of people who are interested in May 16. The Commission can take either one as an alternative, I would think. I would think if we go with May 16, unless we get some exceptionally warm weather, you are going to have some rather small shrimp. You may have more than 50 percent of them that are quite small. If you go with May 23 you are going to have some larger shrimp. You should have a higher marketability. It is also true if they grow fast there is a good possibility that some of the shrimp will start to move outside and you may have to catch them on the shore before the season opens.

With respect to the other two areas, we recommended May 30 for the Calcasieu area. This is based on the time we think the shrimp will be available and the fact that they were interested in the moon phase which will be full on June 1. On the east side of the river we had made an original recommendation of June 6. However, we understand that there are a number of people from that



area and some considerable interest in that area as to whether that season should be also set on May 30.

With respect to Areas 1 and 3, the east and the west, I don't think it will make a significant amount of difference whether you go with the 30th or the 6th, particularly in Area 1.

In Area 2, which is the center section, you have an option. I would suggest that you select the alternative you think the best. I think that if we do not go with the 23rd, we are going to have some small shrimp.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, I think Mr. Lapeyre has some recommendations on the seasons. I would like to hear his recommendations. The reason I am going to ask for this before I ask for any comments from the audience is that perhaps his recommendations will satisfy most of you here who otherwise will get up and be heard, and I think this will save some time and cut some red tape if we go in this direction. Jean.

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Chairman, in considering the most recent data that Doc pointed out right





at the end of his presentation, I feel that the growth rate on the shrimp is encouraging and I feel that any time you delay the opening you are allowing a greater possibility for adverse conditions to adversely affect the shrimp production, so that I think that, without being inconsistent with the basic biological data that has been presented, I would like to move that the opening in Zone 2 be set on May 16. In discussing the question of the other two zones with members of the administrative staff of the Commission, it was felt that a common opening in Zones 1 and 3 of May 30 would be a good recommended opening, again consistent with the biological data that has been presented and also consistent with a more enforceable and manageable opening date.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Is there a second to that motion, or do you want to wait and get the input from the audience?

MR. DUPUY: Let's have the input from the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's go ahead and hear



from the audience. Anyone who wishes to be heard this morning, I wish you would please step to the podium, give you name, and I failed to recognize that we have a former Board member with us this morning, Mr. A. J. Buquet. We are glad to have him back with us, a former Chairman. Mr. Leo Kerner, the Mayor of Lafitte, and Mr. Henry Bernard, the new president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and I am sure there are other important people in the audience I don't recognize or haven't seen this morning, but we are particularly glad to have you with us.

Mayor Kerner.

MAYOR LEO KERNER: I want to tell all of you hello again. I have been here, this is my 20th year that I have come before this Commission, and I have been singing the same song for 20 years. I am just like Jimmie Davis with "You Are My Sunshine." You know, the last time he ran for Governor, it looked like people got tired of hearing it and they didn't elect him. I hope this is my last year to come before this Commission but I would hate to see Louisiana do like Texas and



Mississippi, completely destroy the factories, the canners and the small-boat fishermen. I think our inside waters are too vast and there are too many fishermen here for us to destroy that segment of the fishing industry.

So, I am here today in their behalf and I just want to say that all the elected officials in my area, the Lafitte area, the city and the parish, and the small-boat fishermen and most of the large-boat fishermen are in favor of an earlier season than May 23.

I just want to show you something. On August 13 --

THE CHAIRMAN: We are recommending the 16th.

MAYOR KERNER: O. K., good. I just want to show you something. On August 13, 1957, I come before this Commission and it is reported in the Times-Picayune what I said, and I said that the season should not be opened later than May 10, and I have been saying that now for 20 years and we can show records that the shrimp at the end of June are the same size as they are in the middle of May or the 10th of May. That is every year,



and if anybody don't think this is true, I want you to go to the docks where they buy shrimp and that is the only way you can know is to go by facts. If they are running 100 to the pound on May 10, they will be running 100 to the pound on June 25. You can check the records; that is the way it is every year.

Another record I want all of you to check is that the month of May -- I am not talking about size, I am talking about poundage -- produces more shrimp than any other month in the calendar year, the month of May. You can check that out any way you want. I have some records to show, I have got it in there and I want to give it to you gentlemen, to show that in two weeks in May we produce as much shrimp as the whole month of June, and the month of May is the best month that we have.

Those are facts and figures that was put out by the U. S. department and I am sure those are close to accurate. (Mayor Kerner here distributed papers to Board members.)

I don't know why the Conservation and everybody else concerned with shrimp is always



testing the inside waters, the inland waters. You can look in the World Book on Page 363 and I have in that briefcase if you want to look at it, it tells you that the shrimp is a sea animal and they are fed from tiny ocean life, and I believe that with all my heart. I have never in my life and never ever would believe that nutrients come from the grass, because if you get a heavy rain between now and the time you open that season, you are going to have the poorest season you ever saw. So if those nutrients are coming the shrimps must be leaving because they don't have Alka-Seltzer to take after they eat them, because there is no such a thing as I ever heard of of a sea animal eating anything that come off of grass.

You can go down to Lafitte, you can go to Delacroix Island, you can go to Grand Isle, you can go anywhere you want, and those fishermen are standing on the wharf, saying we want south wind. Why do they want south wind? Because the shrimp is in the grass? What the hell is the difference if it is north, west, east or south? But they want south wind. Do you know why? Because that is where the



shrimp come, the Gulf.

There is nowhere in Louisiana or Florida or Texas or anywhere else if that Gulf of Mexico don't bring that water in, you will never see a shrimp or a crab. Go to Shreveport, one of the finest lakes in Louisiana, Toledo Bend. Did you ever see a shrimp or a crab in there? Look at any lake where the saltwater don't go, if there is ever a crab or a shrimp.

Just like one lady told me, the shrimps come from the marsh and the swamps. There are swamps and marsh in Baton Rouge. Walk across it and see if there is any shrimp in the marsh or the swamp anywhere in Louisiana. If that Gulf water don't bring those shrimps in here, you will never see a shrimp. If you block the passage, you will never see a shrimp, and don't let anybody tell you that you have to have fresh water for shrimp to grow because there is not a shrimp you can tag will stay in this inland waters more than a month or two months. You will never see a shrimp stay here five months.

You take in Corpus Christi Bay. Do you



think there is any fresh water there? They produce as much shrimp as we do. Where is the fresh water there? Where are the swamps there for shrimp to come in and eat? They produce as much shrimp as we do. You never see that anywheres on the coast. If that salt water don't come in here, you will never see a shrimp.

Every year it is the same thing. I am 53 years old and I have never seen any difference in the shrimp movement in all my lifetime, and I have bought shrimp since I was 16 years old. I have never seen a difference in the shrimps in all my life except one year you might get more and the next year you might get less. Whatever that Gulf gives you, that is what you get, and if ever you don't catch those shrimps when they are in, you will never get that same shrimp back to catch him again.

Those shrimps come in and if they was to open the season on the 23rd, you can take what I am telling you right now, all those boats will be taking salt by the bushelful because they won't be able to work the shrimp that are moving offshore



as soon as May 23. That happens every year. Those shrimps start moving right away. Those shrimps come in and go out all the time. You can go out there with a strong light and watch those shrimps come and you can't butterfly them, and when those shrimps start moving out, you start butterflying because you are catching the shrimp as they are moving offshore. A butterfly never works unless shrimps are moving out because you are skimming the surface of the water. We all know this. And why they keep on talking about inland waters is beyond my thinking, because everything that you would get, as any encyclopedia book will tell you the facts, and anything that they tell you about inland waters is theory.

Two things I want to comment on, too, before I leave here today because I am not going to be able to stay here for the gill netting. The sportfishermen in this state is against gill netting; they tell you it is because the fish are being depleted. Let me say this to all of you here today. The large boats the first ten days or 14 days they go out to catch fish, the first seven,





eight days they don't even ice them up, they throw them back into the water, the drums and the red-fish that a gill net catches. They destroy more fish in one day's trawl than the gill net destroys in five years.

Another thing is the Conservation has four-and-a-half limit on softshell crabs, a four-and-a-half-inch limit. They tell you they do that to protect the crabs. The trawls destroy more crabs in one day than the softshell crab fishermen destroy in ten years, and still they have a limit. I have been trying to get that off for 25 years, trying to get them to have no limit on softshell crabs because we eat them anyway. We don't sell them, they don't allow us to sell them. We can get as high as \$5, \$6, \$7 a dozen for them right now but they won't let us catch them.

Now for the last three or four years we have a good softshell crab season. This year we have none. That is the way it is all the time because you will never catch a crab with a sponge inside. A crab is like a shrimp, she breeds off-shore, and you will never catch a hardshell crab



with a sponge in Lake Salvador or Lake Pontchartrain, anywheres where there is mostly fresh water. You will never catch a crab with a sponge because they have to go in the Gulf for some reason in order to get pregnant and to carry the sponge.

So, what we have to do here is to either keep the small boats where they can make their livelihood or we have to destroy it. I have begged the Conservation, when Bing Wing (?) had the drying platforms years ago, not to put the 68 count on shrimp, because, ladies and gentlemen, the 68 count is there for this reason, and I know this from experience because I have been fooling with it all my life. They have got a 68 count not to protect the shrimp but when the factories got too much they could enforce it and when they don't have enough they let you trawl them.

So, what I am trying to tell you is that we need to get down and talk about what the facts is and do it in Louisiana and stop this foolishness because you know we have been pledging allegiance to the American flag and we have said, yeah, everybody is equal regardless of race, color or creed,



but if you are black, it's the outside. We have got to start living according to what it is and the facts is that those small shrimp is coming to Louisiana for a reason. Our Lord didn't put it everywhere. They don't have small shrimps like that in Florida. They don't have small shrimps like that anywhere except Louisiana and He put them there for a reason, and if we had the drying platforms, the fishermen would have two places to bring their shrimp instead of one, and I argued that about 15 years ago when they stopped the platforms by throwing them shrimps away on them platforms. When they got plenty shrimp and the factories can't handle them all, we had another place to dump them that give a better price to the fishermen.

So, I am asking this Commission today if there is a possibility it would be opened May 9 but no later than May 16. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor, I have to disagree with you on one point you made there, that the Wild Life and



Fisheries and the Conservation Department have run the regulations to satisfy the shrimp industry. We try to enforce the law as the rules and regulations set forth, and I am sorry that you have that opinion. I am sure this Commission has never been aware of it, and certainly not since I have been on it has the law been bent one way or the other in favor of one particular industry or one particular group. That is just not the fact and I have to disagree with you on that.

MAYOR KERNER: Well, you know, I would like to say this to you, that the shrimp law that they have there now, if you remember back in 1957, '58, '59, '60, '61, every time the legislature would meet, we would go up there and they would have the big boats on one side and the skiffs on the other side and they would be arguing about the shrimp season. We finally got together and agreed that we would give the Conservation the flexibility of May 1 to May 15 and in that time they would have to open it. We lived with this for a long time until some guy, somebody went up there and gave you all the leeway that you could go all the way up



into June to open the season and it kind of messed it up again, so you have got arguments back again.

I think if you had left it like it was that you could open it no earlier than May 1 and no later than May 15, I think all that thing would have been solved, because I am tired of coming up here. I have a town to run now and I would like to get out of this business, but I would hate to see the Conservation destroy a segment, because if you open it on the 23rd, gradually you will have more little boats out of business and then you will be opening June 6 and the first thing you know you won't have any little boats at all, they will be all out of business.

What I am telling you on 68 count, if you don't think that I am talking that that 68 count should be taken off, let's take it off, because let me tell you this. Every time you trawl and the shrimps don't make 68 count, all you fishermen here know this to be a fact, what do we do? We cull them. We take the little shrimp and we throw them back overboard and they are already dead. What I am saying is we are just



destroying the shrimp, anyway, because we trawl them, anyway, so what the heck is the use catching them when you can sell them and then because they go a little over 68 to the pound and they are going to take them away from you and we have got to throw them back overboard. They are dead already, you can't bring them back to life.

What I am saying is, if we are going to open the season, let us trawl and catch what we can sell, and if they are too small and we can't sell them and they have no price, let's close it. That is what we have to do. We have to do what is right.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor, one more comment and then I will shut up. Let me say this, that we have no control over what the legislature does. If we did, we would do things a lot differently, you can rest assured of that.

MR. LAPEYRE: I want to make it clear for those who may not be familiar with the fact that the 68 count doesn't apply to the brown shrimp season that we are here to talk about today.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lapeyre.

State your name, please, sir.

MR. NORMAN NAQUIN: Norman Naquin, Chauvin, Louisiana, Allstate Seafood Dealer, president of the shrimp association.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I would like to clarify one thing that Mr. Kerner said about 68 count. It does not apply to our coming season. The brown shrimp has no count on it. It is a thing to be thought of, maybe to put one.

But I came here today for one thing. We had a testing day which was Thursday of last week. The testing looked good. The sizes were good. We had a hand vote that night of about 200 local fishermen from May 3 to May 16, and like I understand, you all are recommending the 16th, so I can't gripe too much but I would have liked to have seen it the 9th. I have my personal reasons for the 9th.

I gave one of the reasons last year, if you all remember. It opened on the 10th. On the 5th every factory in the state of Louisiana was just about flooded with 40, 50-count shrimp caught



off the beaches, and where did they come from? Inside. The biologists didn't show you any 40, 50-count at all. We had them, five days before it opened, loads of them. I know because I bought my share of them. I bought so many I didn't know what to do with them.

I wouldn't want to see it happen again this year where I would get caught with truckloads of shrimp at high prices and not knowing who could work them.

Another thing I am upset about is our biologists claim they never had any money any more to continue their studies, weekly studies or daily studies, whenever they make tests. I understood that they made one test in the last month. They went more by the tests that we made on that Thursday with boats from all points of Terrebonne Parish. They changed their minds about how much shrimp they had, I think, when they saw what we came in with under adverse weather conditions, high tides, heavy winds. We got a good catch.

I think Mr. Sevin brought some samples over here today that kind of surprised the biologists





themselves, and those shrimp didn't come from our side of the lake, they were in the other side. The size is a lot different than what they thought it to be. They didn't have any money to make the tests, so how in the world could they predict the season if they don't know what there is out there.

I would like for anybody to explain to me, if you don't test it, how can you know what there is out there. That is all I have to say.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Naquin.

I am not familiar with how many tests were made but I do think they probably made a number of tests. Do you know, Burt?

DIRECTOR J. BURTON ANGELLE: I would like Mr. Harry Schafer, Chief of the Seafood Division, to answer that.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, we did make tests and as you saw the slides, data was presented from these tests. We did go out with Mr. Naquin's group. They had six boats, I believe, that went out, and the data that they got from those boats corresponded to the data that we had been collecting. The size was no different. We



weren't surprised by the numbers or the size that were taken. I have the data here from their trips and it matches ours completely.

MR. NAQUIN: How many data do you have of previous trips?

MR. SCHAFER: We did not take as many samples this year as we previously did because of the money situation. We used to do it every week, on a weekly basis. Some areas had to cut down because when they weren't catching shrimp there was no need to go out there, so there were periods of time in there when we went two and three weeks without a sample, but when the shrimp were there, the areas that the shrimp were, we had the data and we presented it this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naquin, I know for a fact that the money was short because I was in Baton Rouge last week, begging the Budget Committee to transfer some funds so we could continue to operate.

MR. NAQUIN: I would like to see more funds.

THE CHAIRMAN: We would, too. I am



in agreement with that if you can arrange it.

MR. NAQUIN: If they don't have the funds to run their regular samples, I am sure that in Terrebonne Parish they have enough commercial boats at that time of the year that has the time. I will furnish the fuel. What it takes? 25 or 30 gallons of fuel? Let's run a weekly sample, anyway. I don't have to go out there every day to see how they grew or how many they have, but weekly is enough. But let's not lose a crop altogether and say, well, they never had this size shrimp. If you wait two weeks you might lose a crop completely.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, for God's sake, get his name and phone number!

(Laughter)

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, let me just respond to Mr. Naquin and probably bring this to a culmination, not argument but short debate.

We did run a little short in funds in certain categories but money has been reallocated in the proper categories. However, because of the sincerity of a lot of employees of the Commission,



when monies were not available to buy gas and oil for the state automobiles, they took money out of their private funds to furnish gas and oil in the cars and trucks of the State of Louisiana, to be able to get the data that you are getting here today. So, to those people, I would like to thank them, and I thank them in behalf of you people because they are the people out there taking money out of their pockets to be able to get gas and oil and buy tires and batteries in State vehicles because of the lack of money for about a three- or four-week period.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? This gentleman here I think.

MR. MILTON DUDENHEFER: I am Milton Dudenhefer, president of the East Bank Commercial Fishermen's Association.

I would like to start by commending Dr. St. Amant and his staff. I have been talking to them at different times in prior weeks and also the fishermen have gone out and tested shrimp, and our information has been coinciding with theirs, with Dr. St. Amant's and staff, and we find east



of the river our shrimp are running late and we have less quantity than we had last year. We was in favor of a later season.

At our meeting held last Wednesday we had 90 members present. 89 members voted for June 6, which is agreeing with Dr. St. Amant on his recommendation, and we had one member voted for May 30. The shrimp do seem to be growing a little bit slower.

Now we have got a situation here, and this is why our organization fought so hard to get this zoning, Zones 1, 2 and 3, because we have got different situations. Zone 2, the shrimp grow at a different rate than they do in Zone 1, and this is why we fought so hard to get this zoning. We have fewer shrimp, and so by giving the shrimp a little longer time to grow we have a bigger shrimp, therefore we could catch less but we get twice the price for it.

So, here is a situation where the zones come in handy to satisfy fishermen in different parts of the state because of the different growth rates of the shrimp.



Our organization is recommending June 6 as the opening date of the season in Area 1.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Anyone else? I will take this gentleman behind the post next and then the gentleman over there can follow him.

MR. LEROY AUTHEMENT: I am Leroy Authement from Little Caillou.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have some things that Dr. St. Amant came out with that I am in agreement with --

THE CHAIRMAN: I can't believe that!

MR. AUTHEMENT: -- but the conditions change day in and out. Last Friday I went to the Robinson Canal and throw the cast net and I didn't catch a shrimp. I went last night, and you all can see them and if the biologist want, he can comment. If he find one less than three inches, I must have overlooked it. That's only from Friday to Monday night. I probably would have had more than this but unfortunately after my second cast, on the third one I got hold of a stump and tore it.



But under all that stuff is the theory, and we can't eat theories. We have to throw theories out the window now and look at facts, the facts that are in that bowl. Now these shrimp, you all believe it or not, by tonight will be half-way to Mexico. We have the weather conditions for it. All that rain that fell up in north Louisiana, by the 28th to the 3rd will be in our area and, gentlemen, I will guarantee you, from the second on, in this new moon, that shrimp will be hightailing it south.

So, right now you all got to take under consideration that the small inland shrimpers have been out of work since the 28th of October. The first big cold front that came in, that shrimp moved out. The only ones that made money since the 28th of October is those that had large enough boats in the small boats to go offshore along the beach, but those that don't, that depend on this extremely for their livelihood day in and day out, they are in bad shape right now.

Gentlemen, by all honesty, if you all open this season not Monday you are doing these



people a great injustice, because I guarantee you, from the 2nd to the 9th, those people can make a couple of thousand dollars, and if you all don't open it for the second, why open it at all, because if you open it past the second of May it will be so late in July that the August season is messed up.

I had one man tell me, say, "Oh, your butterfly net on the wharf is scaring the shrimp." I am not churning no water, making mud. I am not in those two-, three-foot ponds. Where I got my butterfly net I got 20 feet of water at my wharf. Shrimp like this (indicating) go through my net. I don't even see that size shrimp.

But, if you all don't believe me, we can take off, all of us right now, and let's go and I will drop it tonight and I am going to show you all something.

We are not quite at the right day yet, but from Thursday onto next Saturday, the 9th, believe you me, I can show you all something. I am not a biologist, far from it, but I got good horse sense that the man upstairs gave me, and he show me out there in the field, day in and day out,





what is going on, and I have sense enough to compromise it and comprehend what he is showing me.

The biologists haven't been finding no shrimp. I have been catching shrimp, little bitty shrimp, since the 28th of February, the first south wind we had, picking them up on oysters, and friend, you mean to tell me that they ain't got no shrimp in the water, when you going to pick them up when oysters coming up.

So, by all honesty and in fairness to the little people, I am begging you all to open that season on the second to give them a chance to survive. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Authement.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Leroy, we are going to take you up on your invitation to have one of our people visit with you tonight when you drop that butterfly net!

MR. QUINTEN S. COUEVAS: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, I am Quinten Couevas from Lafitte, Chief of Police for the Mayor in the town of Lafitte, also Democratic Executive Committeeman for the Sixth Ward, Parish of Jefferson.



I would like to ask Mr. Lapeyre to amend his motion to try to make the season open at least May 9. The information that the biologists got I think was a little too soon, according to the gentleman from Little Caillou. I think what is happening is that we are missing the first crop or the first two crops by opening anywhere beyond the 10th.

I am a big boat owner. I have three of them. Opening the season one way or the other doesn't have any effect on a big boat except that if you go later, like the 23rd, you possibly are messing up the white season. The last two or three years our boats have been trawling on these beaches close to Grand Isle. Right around May 1, May 2, May 5, 10, I get calls from them to bring them salt barrels out there, that they can't handle the shrimp.

The news media here, there is one boat called the PAPA GEORGE, if you are opening late, he invites you to go on his boat to see the pounds and pounds of shrimp that they are shoving overboard because they can't handle it. They are trawling for white shrimp that are moving out around



April, somewhere in that time, and right off the coast are large white shrimp. They are catching 8, 10, 20, maybe even more than that, thousands of pounds and they can't handle it. The shrimp die on the deck or they rot on the deck because they can't handle it.

The big boats are out there, trawling, the first part of the season and catching the big shrimp. When they are ready to come in, within two or three days, then they will come in and catch the little shrimp. They can't ice them up no more than five or six days, maybe three days, because they will rot in the hold. This is what is happening. Our little fishermen are missing the first one or two crops.

There was information given out to you that I would like to let the people know, that the Mayor passed out. This is the month of May. They had 7,886,000 pounds of shrimp, which is called the spring catch, which is 38 percent. Now this data is the National Marine Fisheries Service that presented this here. In June they had 8,000,000, 39 percent. In July, 4,590,000 pounds, 23 percent.



And they are small in July, too, just like they are in May, so we are losing a large percentage of shrimp if we open late.

May 1 to May 15 they had 4,598,000 pounds, which represented 22 percent of the total spring season catch. May 16 to May 29, they had 3,288,000 pounds, representing 16 percent. The shrimp is moving out already. They came in with the tides, they got a little big, and they are going back where they came from. May 16 you lost some and right around May 23 you start your second crop. You have a smaller shrimp and they are going to come in and they are going to catch it and they are going to move out. Possibly three, maybe four, crops during that spring season.

In May, the third week, the canneries produced 363,000 cans of shrimp, 30 percent. June, 651,000 cans of shrimp, 54 percent. July, 198,000 cans of shrimp, 16 percent. At that time your spring season is just about over with.

This is the thing. They had a total of 1,212,000 cans of shrimp. In July your season is almost over with. Some of your inland fishermen



may not care about July, they may quit by that time to get ready for the August season. What happens when you go later, in a later date, you are going into the August season.

The shrimp in May, June and July, you had better catch them then. Come August you are not going to see any. There is no way. I know the biologists have tried to tag these shrimp and they have never found a shrimp with a tag or a mark on it or any kind of indication where they live longer than six months on the inside.

How many of you out there are fishermen? Raise your hands, please.

(Show of hands)

Those are the people we have to represent. How many of you on the Board, not to get facetious now, trawl for a living? None. The rest of you people are all counted, between the Board and the fishermen. This is what we have to do. They are asking for this. I don't trawl for a living. My Daddy was in the seafood business from 1945 to '53. He was one of the largest buyers of seafood on the bayou. I saw his records in 1947,



July 28, something like that. Shrimp ran 128 to the pound. That was outlaw shrimp. At that time they couldn't handle the shrimp. They were so small, the factories would get them and the ladies would pick them and their hands would bleed and they would have to shut down. There was no such thing as a spring season for shrimp.

Then they came along with the picking machines and that created the thing because the picking machines were able to handle it. We never had a May season.

Open this thing, let them catch the shrimp when they are there. Open it early and give these people a chance.

Again, I would like to ask you to amend your motion to make it to May 9. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make one comment about the figures that this gentlemen just presented. He drew from these figures the conclusion that July production was relatively poor. If I remember the dates correctly, how many days in July was the season open? Was it



open for nine or ten days? I think so. If it was open for ten days, that is 16 percent of the total season, and we produced 16 percent of the total production in those ten days.

I don't want to get into any argument. I just want to make a comment as to --

MR. COUEVAS: The reason they do it is because they are trawling along the shore. In July I said they preferred if the winds are not too great, the little boats go out offshore, and the factories are working most of July.

MR. LAPEYRE: Well, the point is, however, that the production in July was good.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. GEORGE SEVIN: George Sevin from Chauvin, Louisiana, a dealer.

I don't have much to say over here today because we got a fair shake in the opening date of the season. I would like to comment on what Mr. Naquin said for the biologists and Mr. Burton Angelle said to take down the name.

I am one of them that has been fighting this thing that Leo said for many a year and I



think the best things that could happen with this here is to get the legislature, once and for all, where people could decide to go and fix their boat and know for the brown shrimp season that they would have a date on the season like our August season, that you wouldn't have this controversy every year to come over here and argue back and forth with people. Some of them are your friends but some of them want late dates and some of them want early dates, so go and get the legislature either to have the first of May -- in other words, that would be like on a Monday -- or the second Monday in May and put a date on it and open it when it would come, like the August season, on the third Monday. Either the first Monday or the second Monday in May and forget about it. Get the law passed and forget about it. Then every year we wouldn't have to come over here.

And please, to get the legislature not to go in our season, like the man said from Lafitte, any later than June 30, because you can go at the factories and swear on a Bible if they want, that in them last 15 days or 20 days that they give you





in the month of July, I would like yet for a man to come in front of me and can tell me that them factories can a lot of shrimp in them 15 or 20 days extra that they give you in July. Not in our area, Zone 2.

Now Zone 1 and Zone 3, it is a different thing. Now brown shrimp in Zone 1, 31-35 in Lake Pontchartrain and in Lake Borgne they caught brown shrimp in there 26-30, and if it would be in that occasion in our area, in other words, Zone 2, that our brown shrimp would stay inside that size, I would be one of the first ones to come over here in front of you all and ask you all please for a later date, if our shrimp would stay in to get to that size, because this year I think is going to be one of our finest seasons, in other words, in history for our brown shrimp, if nothing happens, if it stays like this. Hot weather like we are having right now and low tides in the moss so that where the small brown shrimps are at right now, they are growing every day.

Like Norman said, Mr. Naquin, we went over here last Thursday and made some tests and



I got some samples in that ice chest that were picked up last night and this morning, and that is just like they come. I guarantee you all for the 3rd of May on the beaches from Grand Isle to Coon Point you will have some shrimps out there on them beaches.

In other words, if you all were to open that thing for the 16th, by the 23rd I think you would have enough shrimp all over the factories and the trucks that when the big boats would have brought that in, when the season would have opened, I think the Lafitte skiffs and the smaller boats that were to trawl inside the bay, that they would not have no place to sell their shrimp, and I believe that.

So I think like Mr. Leo Kerner said that the best date would be the 9th. Now it is up to you all. You can go back on your decision if you all want or you can leave it like it is. I am well satisfied that you all made the decision this year. In other words, you really looked at it and made a decision on the 16th that we are satisfied with it, any date.



May God bless you all and I thank you all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MS. MAE UZANUS: My name is Mae Uzanus and I have one thing to say or two things. My husband caught a tagged shrimp about three weeks which was at least about a year ago, but the only thing, he went east rather than west like he was supposed to do.

Another question I would like to ask is why are the factories working five days before the shrimp season is open.

Thank.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can anybody answer that question for the lady? I can't.

FROM THE FLOOR: Because the shrimp are on the beach and they are taking them in for the canneries.

MR. DELMAN GUIDRY: I am Delman Guidry. I am a commercial shrimp fisherman and I think that the fishermen are really hurt, you know, the small boats, just waiting six or eight months or seven months or whatever it is for a season to open. You know, when shrimp are growing in your



backyard, you might say, and you see them leave and when they get on the beaches, the larger boats generally it is rough at that time of year. You know, you get strong south winds and all of that, and the beach skiffs cannot possibly go out there and catch them shrimp. You are waiting and the same shrimp, probably the same sizes that are still in inland waters, just on the other side of the barrier islands, it is against the law to catch them, but right on the outside you have boats there that have trawls all through the winter months that probably destroyed more shrimp, post-larval and so on, that was trying to come in, pulling them big wings that they do, and you are waiting and they get first choice at them shrimp possibly a week or two weeks before we even get a chance to go out there.

I think this is discrimination against the small people. To be fair about this it should be against the law for anyone to even process a Brazilian shrimp that comes from the inland waters until the smaller boats have a chance to take a shot at making a living, just like the rest of the



people are doing. I think this is a discriminating point, letting the outside boats catch them shrimps along the beach, that are just leaving our area and we are not capable of catching them. I think it is a shame. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. WILSON BOURGEOIS: I am Wilson Bourgeois, a fisherman from Grand Isle, small boat.

Just about every year I have got to watch the big boats trawling on the beach there, loading the factories, knocking the price down, and then we start up with the late season. There is more people here that go along with that. Now I am right there, live there and I see them 24 hours a day, and I think this season should open no later than the 9th. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

Does anyone else wish to be heard? Anyone else?

(No response)

Mr. Lapeyre, do you wish to change your motion or do you want to leave it as stated?

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Chairman, I would wish



to leave my motion as stated.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard Mr. Lapeyre's motion. Do I have a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Gentlemen, the season has been set.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has reviewed the requests of the fishermen, industry and sportsmen, as well as the biological predictions and recommendations of the biologists of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare



the 1977 Spring Brown Shrimp season  
to be as follows:

ZONE 1 - Mississippi State Line to  
South Pass, at the mouth of the  
Mississippi River, including  
Lake Pontchartrain, opens  
May 30, 12:01 A.M.

ZONE 2 - South Pass, at the mouth of  
the Mississippi River, to the  
eastern shore of the Atchafalaya  
Bay, opens May 16, 12:01 A.M.

ZONE 3 - Eastern shore of the Atchafa-  
laya Bay to the Sabine River/  
Texas State Line, opens May 30,  
12:01 A.M.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that  
the Director be and is hereby authorized  
to extend and to close said season if  
found to be biologically necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I  
am sorry we couldn't please everybody. Maybe  
someday we can. Christ couldn't do it.

MAYOR KERNER: Let me say this to you,



if I may. I want to thank you all for giving us the 16th because I really do believe as of today the 23rd was the day, so we got the 16th and we are real happy about it, but I want to ask all of you gentlemen that sit on this Commission, will you please do this for us. When the season opens on the 16th of May, will you please go down to the docks and the factories and look at the size of the shrimp, and then I want you to go back on the 16th of June, and if they are not the same thing, I will buy you all a steak supper.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mayor. We appreciate your coming. I appreciate the representation we have had this morning from everybody. I don't necessarily agree with everything that was said but I do think that that is what makes America great. It gives everybody a chance to express himself and to be heard, and it certainly helps us to make our decision and make the right decision, hopefully. Thank you very much.

We will have a five-minute recess now.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, before you recess, may I make one statement while the





shrimpers are here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please.

MR. SCHAFFER: For the benefit of the shrimpers who fish around the New Orleans area, the Port of New Orleans has closed the inner harbor canal. We have maps here that show the area that is closed. It is closed to both shrimping and fishing. If you fish in this area and care to know where it is, it is the red area on these maps. Pick up a map. They do say they are going to make arrests and I think it is a jail fine to be caught fishing or shrimping in this area.

(Whereupon, at 11:40 o'clock  
a.m. a brief recess was taken.)

AFTER THE RECESS:

THE CHAIRMAN: We will please call the meeting to order. Will you take your seats, please.

The next item on the agenda, No. 5,  
Mr. Schaffer.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, back in February the Commission passed some rules and regulations to cover the live bait shrimp season



between the brown and the white seasons.

At that time we had suggested that he had to be a bona fide resident of Louisiana to secure a permit. This was done because at the hearing that passed Act 238 in 1966 which authorized us to set a bait-shrimp season, both the shrimpers there and some of the legislators were kind of balking at one Mississippi resident that we had issued permits to in the previous years. For the past five years while we were under a permit system set up by resolution, we had issued a permit to Bordages at Bayou Caddy. These regulations do not cover him, and Mr. Claude Duke had written our Director a letter, suggesting or requesting that the the Bordage Brothers be included under this under a grandfather clause.

Mr. Duke is here and if you would want, he would discuss this matter with you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Duke.

MR. CLAUDE DUKE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, my name is Claude Duke, an attorney of the firm of Duke and Porterie in New Orleans. I am here representing the Bordage



Brothers of Lake Shore, Mississippi, and we are seeking an amendment to the provisions, as Mr. Schafer has provided, and the grandfather clause would provide this.

At the end of the present Paragraph 2:  
". . . provided that a special bait dealers permit as herein referred to shall be issued to those out of state bona fide bait dealers who have in the past received more than three annual bait dealers permits from this Commission."

Bordage Brothers have been in the bait business for over 50 years. For years and years and years this Commission maintained a boathouse in Bayou Caddy before the move was made to the Rigolets. Presently from time to time boats of this Commission come up and dock at Bordage's and I am sure that the best of relationships exists between the Bordage Brothers and this Commission.

I am not here just representing Bordage Brothers. Let me say I am just a little selfish. I am a fisherman and I would like to have some bait during the closed season myself. I would say to you gentlemen that 90 percent of the people, or



almost so, that have boats and fish out of Bordage's are people from New Orleans, Louisiana. I can name some of the prominent people of this city, Dr. Boles, John Housey of Orleans Materials Company, Dr. Maestri, Mr. LaNasa, Claude Hogan, Mal McIlwain of the McIlwain Cadillacs, Judge Cassibry, Edwin Heath, the Frey brothers, who maintain a manufacturing plant here, Corney Roberts in the oil business, Charlie Cantrelle, who operates Pat O'Brien's, Robert Maloney, Paul Maloney, Al Kernion, and I could go on and on and tell you the people that have boats and who fish out of Bordage's.

Now if you deny the permit to Bordage's, you are not hurting them too much. You are hurting the people of Louisiana who use their facilities there. It is the only place and closest place to Louisiana, if we didn't get bait we would have to go the Rigolets or Shell Beach. I know Blackie Campo, I have fished out of his place for years, and Blackie will tell you it would be almost impossible for me to come down there and get shrimp from him.

So, I ask you in all earnestness and



seriousness that we adopt this amendment. Mr. Schafer said there was some comment about this one person getting this permit. Frankly, I have never heard of any opposition. I asked Mr. Campo if he had any opposition. He is a Louisiana bait dealer, and I don't believe Mr. Campo has heard of any opposition. And so, I don't think it is a monumental thing to help these people and to help the Louisiana people who fish out of this outlet to adopt this amendment to your regulations so as to permit it. It is just a small period of time, 15 days, but it does prejudice those people who do business down there, and I would ask that this amendment be adopted.

You might discuss this amendment with your attorney to see if he would have any suggestions by way of changes to this grandfather clause, and I have prepared the amendment so that the paragraph would now read, if it is adopted, "The individual bait dealer will provide an affidavit or notarized statement disclosing that he is an established resident of Louisiana and a bona fide bait dealer presently operating in this capacity," and then this



is the clause that I ask be adopted, "provided that a special bait dealers permit as herein referred to shall be issued to those out of state bona fide bait dealers who have in the past received more than three annual bait permits from this Commission." I am sure that they have received more than three but we have put three. They have received one every year since this Commission has been issuing special bait dealers permits for the taking of live bait in off season.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Duke.

Yes, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Let me ask Harry, Harry, what is the problem about this?

MR. SCHAFER: The only problem and the only reason it was left out was because during the hearings, particularly the Senate hearing, Senator Duval and a couple of the other members of that Natural Resources Committee kind of objected along with some of the shrimpers that were present at that time to the out of state residents getting



permit to fish during a closed season, and that was the whole objection to it at that time.

MR. DUKE: I am sure if I had the chance to talk to Senator Duval I could convince him and get him on my side, because there is only one question involved. It is not the State of Texas and it is only one person in Mississippi, so I don't think it is a monumental thing. If Senator Duval knew the considerations about this thing, I am sure he would change his mind, and I say that to you gentlemen on this commission.

MR. JONES: Well, Harry, the legislature did not see fit to put any restrictions, did they?

MR. SCHAFER: They authorized us to come up with rules and regulations. These were the rules and regulations that we came up with, and of course the law says we have to send the rules and regulations before being adopted to each one of the Natural Resources Committee, the House and the Senate. This was done and we have not heard anything on the rules and regulations.

MR. DUPUY: Harry, do we have any other out of state bait dealers from either Texas or



Mississippi or any other state that have in the past operated in this state?

MR. SCHAFER: This is the only one that has been on a steady basis. We had one other Mississippi dealer for one year.

MR. JONES: Pete, can we do that?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Harry, didn't the problem arise because of Bordage's having three different out of state licenses at one time, and this is what really got the legislator upset, because he was an outsider, and we were providing him under the provisions of the resolution with three different licenses?

MR. DUKE: Well, they paid for their licenses.

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, for each permit that they do get, they pay the amount of money that is required.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Instead of one permit being issued, they were being issued three permits, isn't that correct?

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, he had several boats that were coming over.





DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And this was the real problem that troubled the legislator. I would think if they would be issued one permit, you would resolve part of your problem.

MR. JONES: He just wants one permit, doesn't he?

MR. DUKE: We take out every permit, insofar as their trawling is concerned, that is required by this Commission and the law.

MR. JONES: But he does not want three permits for three boats; just one permit.

MR. DUKE: Just one permit, that is all. There is only one bait trawling boat.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I move we adopt the proposed amendment.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a motion and a second.

MR. DUPUY: On discussion before you vote, Jerry, would that include in your motion a limitation of one permit?

MR. JONES: Yes, insert the wording at the end that that would be limited to one permit.



MR. DUKE: That is the only application we have made with Mr. Schafer today, yes, sir.

MR. LAPEYRE: I would like to ask, this is being done under a grandfather clause which limits the out of state applicants to the existing ones? Is this the way it is going to be done? Three years?

MR. JONES: It is in the form that he read.

MR. DUKE: Yes, sir, that they must have received permits in the past from this Commission for three or more years.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I would like to see the word "consecutive" included in that, Mr. Duke. It would not bother you.

MR. DUKE: I have no choice of language. I took it up with Mr. Duffy.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: "Three consecutive years" and then it would prohibit the other people from coming in that had been doing business for 20 years, you know, but at intervals of seven or six years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones, would you like



to restate your motion?

MR. JONES: Yes, I will restate the motion, insert the word "consecutive" before "three years" in the proposed resolution and add at the end that it shall be limited to one permit per year.

MR. GILBERT: One question, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. GILBERT: Harry, you said that when the hearing before the Senate and House Natural Resources Committee was held, there was some opposition, this was brought up at this time?

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, sir. There were some shrimpers there at the meeting for other things when this came up, and some of them also showed up for this. There is some resentment by some of the shrimpers, having these people out there during a closed season, and a lot of them think that nobody should be out there, if a season is closed, it should be closed to everybody. And so, there is some resentment about this special bait permit thing and there was some talk at the hearing, particularly the Senate -- it went through the House with not



too much comment but they caught it in the Senate as it went through, and there was quite a turnout of shrimpers at that meeting who objected to the bait shrimp per se but particularly because they had some out of state in there, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: But the Senate didn't take any action on it, right?

MR. SCHAFFER: No, the bill was passed.

MR. GILBERT: Harry, one further question. Is it imperative that this be done today, or do we have time to act on it at a later date and hear any opposition that might have arisen?

MR. SCHAFFER: If he is to get his permit this year, it would have to be done today.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gilbert, I agree with your thinking, I am sure, but I don't think we are going to create as many problems as might have been indicated here, and certainly we can't please everybody, and I really think these people are entitled to a license.

MR. LUTTRELL: Clarification. I believe I understood Harry to say that really these people were opposed to anyone seining bait. Is that



correct?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: There is some opposition to that. However, the bait dealers have prevailed.

MR. LUTTRELL: Well, as a fisherman, I would like to buy a little bait, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion and we have a second.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second it as amended.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no further discussion, we will have a vote now. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild  
Life and Fisheries Commission has  
reviewed the request of Mr. Claude W.  
Duke in behalf of Bordages Brothers



Marina, Inc., Lake Shore, Mississippi,  
to change the rules and regulations  
for a special bait dealer's permit,  
and

WHEREAS, this was checked by  
the Commission attorney and the Com-  
mission biological staff and found to  
be in compliance with our state laws  
and biologically feasible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED  
that Section 2 of the rules and regula-  
tions for a special bait dealer's per-  
mit is amended to read as follows:

"The individual bait dealer will provide  
an affidavit or notarized statement dis-  
closing that he is an established resident  
of Louisiana and a bona fide bait dealer  
presently operating in this capacity,  
provided that a special bait dealer's  
permit as herein referred to shall be  
issued to those out of state bona fide  
bait dealers who have in the past received  
more than three consecutive annual special



bait dealer's permits from this Commission and shall be limited to one permit."

MR. DUKE: Thank you, gentlemen. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Duke.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, one other thing on these rules and regulations also. The rules and regulations that were adopted, Section 3 says that at the time of issuance of a permit, the dealer will post a \$1,000 bond. Because we have had so many people come in, trying to make application for this bait dealer, who have not been in the past, and we have had some 15 to 20 people come in, wanting to make application, I have kind of taken it upon myself to require that the \$1,000 bond or check or whatever be given to us at the time of application, to cut out the amount of work that we have to do in order to investigate the establishments of these people. When they fill out the application, we send people out there to see if they have all the facilities that are called for in these rules and regulations, and because of the amount of people that came in that were not



bait dealers before, who wanted to make application, I then required that they put the money down at the time of application and not at issuance of the permit, as it says in our regulations.

I would like to be able to continue to do that because it does work a hardship on us with the number of personnel available to inspect these places.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, I believe that is an administrative decision. I am sure that the Secretary will go along with you on that.

MR. SCHAFER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't believe that requires Board action. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Angelle.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, we have visiting with us a member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, my good friend Ned Doucet, representing Vermilion and Acadia Parishes and interested in gill nets and the setting of the shrimp season, so he is visiting with us today.





Also with him is Mr. Charles Broussard from Vermilion Parish, representing the Schooner Bayou Project, and his technical adviser, Mr. Vernon Bearhorst, coordinator of the Louisiana Coastal Commission.

We are happy to have all three of you visiting with us today and hope that you can maybe lend counsel to our deliberating problems here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Or more confusion!

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Always positive!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I have three items on the agenda. The first is that the statute provides that ten percent of the hunting license revenue will be allocated to Ducks Unlimited for the purpose of developing and maintaining breeding ground areas in Western Canada that contribute ducks to Louisiana. We would like to recommend at this time that the Commission approve of an allocation of \$50,000 from the sale of the '76-'77 hunting license receipts for this purpose.



Mr. Clay Luttrell, our Commission member, attended the international meeting of Ducks Unlimited out in California last week and made a commitment there that this would be done, and certainly that gave Louisiana a great deal of favorable publicity to participate in this fashion. We would recommend that the Commission approve of this allocation of \$50,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, I move that it be done -- rather than pay it out of my pocket!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell. Do I have a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Any discussion?

MR. DUPUY: Could I amend the motion to request that Mr. Luttrell either bond or put up the \$50,000 in advance until we have it!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I won't entertain any



more motions! (Laughter) We have a motion before us. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Revised Statutes provide for the allocation of a portion of the annual hunting license revenue to be used for the development, maintenance and preservation of marshlands and other habitat productive of migratory waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., a private conservation organization, is actively engaged in carrying out a program to develop, maintain and improve highly productive waterfowl marshes in Western Canada where ducks are produced that winter in Louisiana,



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
that an advance payment of \$50,000 on  
the 1976-77 hunting license sales be  
made to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., with  
the stipulation that these funds shall  
be used for waterfowl habitat develop-  
ment and restoration in the prairie  
provinces of western Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc., provide this  
Commission with a detailed report on  
the projects upon which these funds  
are expended.

THE CHAIRMAN: Our good friend Mr.  
Luttrell and our good friend Jesse Fontenot of  
Morgan City and Ed Kyle were all in San Francisco  
at the same time at the DU convention, and some of  
us speculated at that time if they didn't have an  
earthquake then, there won't be any more in San  
Francisco, so apparently everything is pretty safe  
out there for a while! We took all the game wardens  
south of Morgan City and gave them a week off while  
they were out there!



MR. YANCEY: Justiss Mears has a mineral lease on a portion of the Commission-owned Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area near Monroe, and they have requested permission to make an assignment of that mineral lease to Hunt Energy Corporation. We have had this matter scrutinized by our attorney, Mr. Peter Duffy. He sees no problems with it. Hunt would operate under the same rules and regulations that Justiss Mears operated under, which are designed to protect the management area from any damages from the mineral development program.

We would like to recommend that the Commission approve of this mineral assignment from Justiss Mears to Hunt Energy Corporation.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Justiss Mears Oil  
Company, Inc. has assigned to Hunt  
Energy Corporation State Lease  
(Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries  
Commission) 6840, 6841 and 6842,  
respectively dated March 8, 1977  
and March 11, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Hunt Energy Corpor-  
ation, Assignee, by the terms and  
covenants of the Assignment has agreed  
to comply with all terms, conditions  
covenants and agreements set forth in  
the original leases and also in par-  
ticular to comply with the special  
rules and regulations governing mineral  
development in the Russell Sage Wild-  
life Management Area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisher-  
ies Commission hereby approves the  
Assignment of State Lease (Louisiana



Wildlife and Fisheries Commission) 6840, 6841 and 6842 respectively dated March 8, 1977 and March 11, 1977, by Justiss Mears Oil Co., Inc. to Hunt Energy Corporation and hereby directs J. Burton Angelle, Director, to notify both parties by forwarding certified copies of this resolution for annexation to the Assignments for recordation in the appropriate records of the parishes where the tracts under lease are situated.

MR. YANCEY: The third item that I have pertains to the Atchafalaya Bay area south of Morgan City. We would like to propose that consideration be given to the establishment of a wildlife management area in the Atchafalaya Bay area that would be called the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area.

Now as we all know, the Bay area is filling in as a result of sedimentation moving down the Atchafalaya system from the midcontinent regions of the United States and presently this cross-hatched area (indicating) in Atchafalaya Bay and



also at the mouth of Wax Lake shows where the mud flats and the marshes are forming. Within the next one, two or three decades we expect a big portion of this Bay area to be filled in and become one of the most important delta marshes in probably the whole world.

This past winter this area was used by a population of about 50-to-100,000 ducks and several thousand geese. Already nutria, muskrat, raccoon, mink, otter and marsh animals of that sort are beginning to be found in that area. Ultimately we will have a deer herd out there.

We would want to propose that consideration be given to the establishment of these lands and waters as a wildlife management area. Not at today's meeting, but this would have to be handled by a Governor's proclamation, and we would want to put out a news release to determine what kind of reaction we would get out of it before any definite action would be taken, but it would make an excellent wildlife management area. It would be one of Louisiana's most productive land areas as far as waterfowl, furbearers, marine life and what-have-you





are concerned. We would like to throw this out as a proposal for consideration by all of those who may be interested.

Now the activities that go on in these lands and waters now are principally minerals, shell dredging, sport hunting, sport fishing and commercial fishing. We would not see where this proposal would in any way conflict with any of those activities, except as it may relate to the taking of wildlife through sport hunting. But we wanted to put this proposal up and give everybody an opportunity to give it some consideration, and then we would act on it at a later meeting if the reaction is favorable.

THE CHAIRMAN: I can see now, Mr. Yancey, that the Commission is going to have a meeting in Morgan City because I am not going to take all of the credit or any of the blame for this. We are going to let the local people there comment and have their input on it, you can rest assured of that.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, how would you propose to limit and modify the boundaries and limits of



this area?

MR. YANCEY: Well, the boundaries on game management areas are normally identified with signs mounted on posts. Of course, this is all state lands and waters now. It wouldn't involve any acquisition of land. The major expense in running this area as a wildlife management area would involve the employment of adequate personnel to patrol it and enforce the laws in that area and manage the habitat, whatever that may be, and there would be expense involved in constructing patrol camps and providing boats for the personnel to look after the area. But it would greatly strengthen enforcement activities in that part of the state and would certainly be beneficial to the people that enjoy the outdoors and also to the wildlife populations that are now inhabiting and are going to inhabit that area in the years ahead.

This black line (indicating on map) encompasses about 125,000 acres total, and presently there is about 9- or 10,000 of marshland already present there, but as this Bay continues to fill in, eventually it will probably be 60 percent



marshland area and about 40 percent water within just a matter of two decades. These are the projections that have been made by the engineer, and that marshland, of course, is made up of some of the finest topsoil that comes from the midcontinent regions of this country. It is going to be a rich land, it is going to be very productive of wildlife.

MR. DUPUY: You have some of the good Avoyelles Parish soil down there, I can tell you.

MR. YANCEY: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, when do you want to approach this problem and how do you plan to approach it?

MR. YANCEY: I would propose, we have got to run this in the State Register, and put out a news release on it, and that we take action either at the May or June meeting, one of the two.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are going to hold the May meeting in Morgan City then.

MR. YANCEY: Well, the May meeting is already scheduled for Monroe. That is your public hearing on seasons and bag limits. There is no rush on it.



THE CHAIRMAN: You are going to have a meeting in Morgan City; as Chairman, I am going to call one, you can believe that. The June meeting will be in Morgan City.

MR. YANCEY: That will be fine.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I think it may be a favorable audience.

MR. LUTTRELL: Is there a special reason for that?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman wants it!

(Laughter)

Thank you, Mr. Yancey. Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The first thing we have is recommendations for a uniform policy for the personnel of the Game Division. Since these are real lengthy and they have been discussed, I am going to ask that the recorder just go ahead and put them in the minutes there as we give them to her. There are two types of uniforms. One is the field type, which is a khaki type uniform, spruce green color, khaki shirts, but as we know in the Commission we do not every year have enough funds to clothe these



men for the whole year in their work activities, so they do have to furnish quite a bit of their own clothing, so these policies are for just mainly what we furnish. Then it does clarify in there that when they do get their own, it will be in a neat, presentable way for the public to meet when they are doing their enforcement work on the game management areas, check stations and other places.

This type of uniform is one that looks fairly good for dress purposes or to meet the public for enforcement, and it is also used by our work crews then to work on heavy equipment, tractors and other types like that.

The dress uniform then is furnished for the purpose of making public appearances, that is, TV programs, when the fellows have to go to court on cases and meeting with civic clubs and other groups.

So, I would just like to go ahead and ask that these be put into the minutes as they have been presented there and reviewed.

MR. JONES: I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones,  
seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, uniforms are furnished  
by the Department of Wild Life and Fish-  
eries to personnel, and

WHEREAS, two types are used,  
that type referred to as a work uniform  
and the type referred to as a dress  
uniform, and

WHEREAS, due to limited funds,  
the Department at this time cannot  
furnish enough uniform for year-round  
activities, and

WHEREAS, the use, method of  
wearing, when, etc., are covered in  
the policies as set forth in Game



Division Policy 09-01 and 09-02,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission adopt these policies for the Game Division personnel to wear uniforms as furnished.

(A copy of the above-mentioned policies is appended hereto and made a part hereof.)

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item, the Red River Waterways Commission, through our State Department of Public Works, has requested permission to go through our Red River Wildlife Management Area for additional revetment work on the Red River there. This request is for an area of about 3,700 feet long along the banks of our Red River Wildlife Management Area.

They have done a good bit of this in the past on Red River and it is of help to us because it does stabilize the banks there and cuts down on erosion, so by doing this they are saving quite a bit of our land on the Red River Wildlife Management



Area and this is much needed land that we have, so I would recommend to the Commission then that we do permit them to go in and do this revetment work along the Red River.

The stipulations will be, as in the past, though, that should they come through by land, any road damage or whatever may occur in their activities, they would be held responsible for and do the repairs on that. Also, there are some borrow pits right along this area that have provided very good fishing and we have asked that they not drain these borrow pits along the river there, to leave them as they are. That would be our recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Mr. Dupuy has requested the privilege of that motion. Mr. Jones, you will yield?

MR. JONES: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Jones. Any comments? All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.





THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Department of  
Wild Life and Fisheries has received  
a request from the Fifth Louisiana  
Levee Board through the State Depart-  
ment of Public Works for the purpose  
of doing revetment work on the banks  
of our Red River Wildlife Management  
Area; and

WHEREAS, this revetment work  
will stabilize the banks along the Red  
River, and

WHEREAS, this revetment work  
will consist of approximately 3,700  
feet along the banks of our Red River  
Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this work is described  
as Mile 30.6 - L between base line



stations 662 + 79 and 709 + 50 as shown  
on the furnished maps,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approve this revetment work provided the Fifth Louisiana Levee Board repairs all damages to roads done by their crews and the borrow pits in this vicinity are not drained.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, before the fist-fight starts, I want to say that the May meeting will be held in Monroe, Louisiana at the Ramada Inn, public hearing on seasons and bag limits, and on Saturday the public hearing will continue.

MR. GILBERT: That is May 13 and 14?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, May 13 and 14. That is the Ramada Inn in Monroe, Louisiana, public hearing on seasons and bag limits.

Now we will get into a non-controversial matter, as the Director says. Item No. 11 and the last item on the agenda, consideration and recommendations according to Act 576 relative to



harvesting speckled trout and redfish by commercial and sport fishermen.

Dr. St. Amant, it is your ball.

DR. ST. AMANT: Every time I get up here, trouble starts!

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, the Commission was directed by Act 576 of the 1976 legislature to undertake certain investigations and activities in order to better allocate certain saltwater fish, namely speckled trout and redfish, between the recreational and commercial fishing interests.

The Commission was specifically directed to hold public hearings to determine the problem areas, to attempt to develop equitable and enforceable regulations for allocating the fish between the participating interests, and where necessary to define zones, areas and seasons to be utilized in such allocations.

Further, the Director of the Commission was authorized to set seasons, to regulate gear and to set creel limits on the species involved.

Act 576 also repealed all or parts of



laws which may be in conflict with this directive.

In carrying out Act 576 we have held the appropriate public hearings, have had various workshops involving the principal interested parties and leaders from both recreational and commercial interests, and have had numerous conversations and staff consultations in trying to develop a proposal which would satisfy the requirements of Act 576 and accomplish some equitable allocation of speckled trout and redfish.

At this point in time the Commission has had some level of success. However, it is impossible to determine whether the proposals and recommendations below will be entirely satisfactory or workable.

It should be clearly understood that the proposals offered herein were not or could not be developed from adequate statistical and scientific data. The Commission is at present carrying out certain limited research in this area which should produce usable data in the future, but it is clear that the depth of the difference of opinion between the interested groups is so great that a tremendous



amount of technical information and statistics requiring considerable time to develop would be necessary to satisfy their concerns.

Therefore, in the absence of sufficient data, the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has tried to analyze both positions and develop a series of regulations and recommendations which should accomplish the following:

(1) It should definitely separate and identify the commercial fishing interests and the recreational fishing interests;

(2) It should prevent the casual part-time or recreational commercial fishermen from participating in the commercial market, and it should prevent the use of commercial gear for the taking of fish for home consumption, both actions which confuse the management program and cause major enforcement problems;

(3) It recognizes that there is an apparent competition for an existing supply of fish and attempts to equitably allocate the production between the two groups;

(4) While the Commission has no



biological evidence that the stocks of the fish are depleted and endangered, regulations have been recommended to reduce the level of catch and to protect the fish during spawning seasons.

In analyzing the results of the public hearings and the various workshops and discussions it becomes apparent that the commercial and recreational fishing interests are widely divided in opinion, and the principal thrust of the recreational group is either to greatly reduce or entirely prohibit commercial fishing for these two species in the State of Louisiana.

Conversely, the commercial interests take the position that they have an historic right to continue their fishery, and furthermore that they have the right to use modern and efficient gear vis-a-vis monofilament gill nets.

It is the opinion of the Commission that it would be inequitable and possibly unconstitutional for one group to totally ostracize the other. However, in view of the fact that the Commission has been directed to allocate and segregate these groups on an equitable basis, it



is recognized that the simplest way to do so is to provide areas or zones where the two interests do not interface. This condition now exists in a considerable area of the coast of Louisiana, namely, Lake Pontchartrain, the Chandeleur Islands, and various refuges and sanctuaries.

A large area involving Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish and a proposed portion of Jefferson Parish involves an area where the legislative intent is not clear. A law has been passed prohibiting gill netting and restricting other nets. It is presumed the intent is to totally prevent or severely restrict the taking of speckled trout and redfish by commercial interests in these parishes. Unfortunately, the law as written is not effective. It would be helpful if the legislative intent would be restated, either to totally restrict commercial fishing in this area or to allow some commercial fishing in that area.

If total restriction is the intent, then no netting should be allowed at any time. If partial restriction is the intent, then properly operated netting of all types should be allowed



within certain periods.

It is our opinion that in order for Act 576 to be effective and for any regulations promulgated by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to be workable, this latter problem must be solved. In other words, we have to determine just what is the intent for this large area of water in the central part of the state. Once we determine the intent here, we can regulate accordingly.

With this in mind we suggest the following recommendations and regulations, which perhaps would be more effective if made statutory than a regulation of the Commission.

This is a general statement of the findings, the position of the Commission at this time. Now I expect to go through the specific things that were discussed, and basically what we did in these meetings was try to determine the positions on both sides. We had several workshops in which we tried to get these people together to see where we could get agreement and compromise, and surprisingly we got a lot of agreement and compromise on some things, and we are going to point this out,





and obviously there were some areas where there was absolutely no meeting of the minds, so we had to work within this framework.

Now, with respect to the first thing, the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has an enforcement problem when we get in this area of fishery management, so one of our recommendations is that all areas which the legislature closes, or if any other agency closes an area, it should be closed to all webbing. In other words, if it is going to be closed to commercial fishing, we need to close it completely. If the area is going to be fished at all, it should be open to all netting; using piece-meal type webbing is not very good management and not enforceable at all.

With respect to this, since we do not have the clear intent of the legislature at the present time, and I suspect it may change when they examine this, we are recommending that in Terrebonne, Lafourche and Jefferson, whatever portion is closed, that it be closed to all netting from April 15 to the day after Labor Day, and that at all other times it be open, or open from the day



after Labor Day to April 14 to all types of netting, including monofilament gill nets.

Now the second recommendation that we are getting into is a question of licensing commercial, recreational and non-resident people. There was quite an agreement among both the commercial and the recreational people that we apparently have a problem with the non-resident fishermen. The problem here is that legally we are not able to discriminate against these people. You just can't say "Keep out."

It is also very easy to walk into the State of Louisiana and to say I would like to vote here or buy an automobile license, and you automatically become a resident, and once you do this, you can come to us and get a resident license. So, we are recommending that we re-establish a licensing system so that we can do something about it. We are going to have a resident commercial finfish license and this is going to be a license for our commercial people.

In order to separate commercial from non-commercial it is going to be pretty steep. These



are basically what we are going to do. First, we are going to seek legal aid and legislative consultation to set up a proper law to define what a non-resident is and what a resident is, because we have to do this.

Once we get the residency defined, then we are going to set up a license and here is what we would do. The basic resident commercial fishing license is going to be \$250. If you are going to sell fish, catch fish and put them on the market, you are going to pay for it, because it is pretty good business. Now after you get that license, you will be able -- well, let's go back first.

A basic resident fishing license is \$250. The basic non-resident commercial fishing license is \$750. Now just having this license doesn't allow you to go out there and fish at will. You are going to have to also pay \$250 license for your gear. If you want to use a trammel net, a gill net, a trotline commercially, or a casting rod commercially, any kind of gear, you are going to pay \$250. Now with \$250 you can use any one of these.



So, if you want to be a commercial fisherman in this state and you want to catch fish, whether you catch them with a rod and reel or a slaughter pole or a gill net or what-not, it is going to cost you \$500.

A non-resident, it is going to cost him \$750 plus \$500. It is going to cost him \$1,250, because he is going to pay \$500 for his gear license. Now this sounds steep, but there is a reason for these licenses. We are definitely trying to separate the casual recreational part-time fishermen and so forth. We are trying to keep people from using commercial gear to catch fish for home consumption in and around these camps and what have you. If you have got to eat fish, go out there and catch them with a rod and reel or a line. If you are in the marketing business, let's get in the marketing business. Otherwise we can't enforce this. Now there may be a lot of noise about this but this is what we are recommending.

Moreover, you are going to have to buy the basic resident or non-resident license, that is the \$250 license for a commercial resident or



\$750 non-resident before you can buy this other stuff, and we are not going to sell a gear license to anybody that doesn't have a valid commercial license. If you use commercial gear, you are a commercial fisherman.

O. K., now the commercial people are not the only ones that are going to get hooked. There is going to be established a fee for resident saltwater angling license. This is \$5, but before you can buy the resident saltwater angling license, you have to have in possession the regular \$2 angling license. There is a reason for this. It looks silly, but it is to get everybody involved in the thing. Otherwise, we would have people out there that we would not be able to identify. We are trying to get everybody who fishes saltwater identified.

The non-resident saltwater angler's license shall be a fee of \$25, and there will be a basic non-resident trip license for a few days, seven days, for \$10. If you want to come in here and fish saltwater fish with a rod and reel, it costs you \$10. If they can do it in other states,



we can do it.

We are recommending a creel limit for recreational saltwater fishermen. The limit shall consist of not more than 50 fish per day. This is any combination of redfish and speckled trout. You can have 49 of one and one of the other, or you can catch 25 and 25, or any way you want, and you can have 100 fish in possession -- this is a two-day limit -- but don't come in with 100 fish in the box, now. You had better figure some way to catch them one day and then the next day, because this is going to be like ducks and like all the others.

Now these are not things that haven't been done before. This is stuff that everybody in this state is living with, with practically all the game laws and all the freshwater sport fish.

We were asked to allocate and we were asked to protect and we were asked to reduce the catch, and this should do it.

Moreover, in order to protect the spawning redfish, no recreational angler shall take or have in possession more than two redfish that are



greater than 36 inches in length. If you are going to fish bull red, you can catch two, and the rest of them you release. This is per day. This is not unusual, either. Recreational fishermen fishing for billfish, marlin, sailfish, they release them. These big fish are not particularly good to eat, anyway. You can catch all you want and turn them loose, and you can have two to bring in.

We are recommending a change in the salt-water gear, sizes, meshes and what-have-you. We are doing this in order to definitely separate and attempt to get ahold of the enforcement problem between seines, trammel nets and gill nets. We are going to recommend that monofilament gill net be used but we are going to change the sizes on it.

Now one thing that was brought out in the hearings and it was brought out in some statistics that we developed, that were developed in Texas, that were right interesting, and it falls into the category of what size fish you catch with certain mesh sizes, and also what is used on the market or can be sold on the market, what the market demand is.



It appears that if you slightly increase the size of your gill nets that we can catch a more marketable fish, we will catch more pounds but less numbers of individual fish. We are recommending that we go to a gill net with a two-inch bar and a four-inch stretch mesh and that it be not more than 1,200 feet in length. This would be a saltwater gill net. It is not going to be a halfway type license you get now, because these are recommendations -- just wait until we finish and then if you have any questions, you can ask them. This is going to be all below the saltwater line, which is approximately along the Intracoastal Canal but there are certain exceptions to it.

Saltwater seines shall have a maximum mesh size of three-quarter-inch bar and one and a half inch stretch, and be no more than 1,200 feet.

Saltwater trammel nets shall have an inner wall of a maximum size mesh of three-quarter bar and one and a half inch stretch and an outer wall of six-inch bar and 12-inch stretch, and be no more than 1,200 feet. All walls of webbing must be equal in length.





Now, this is done for a specific reason. We are trying to prevent the use of one type of net being used in a different way. We don't want seines used as gill nets. We don't want trammel nets used as gill nets. If you want to use a gill net, you are going to use gill nets.

All nets except very large nets, that is five-inch bar and above, which are normally used for fishing for gar and trash fish, must be attended at all times. Now what we are saying here now is you are not going to leave a net out. If you are going to fish it, you will be in attendance, and they will be marked with a flag, so somebody knows you are fishing with them.

Large nets for gar fish may be broken down into three sections of 400 feet each if they want. They may be left unattended but they will have to have some kind of float or flag on them that you will know there is a net there. This is a net with more than a five-inch bar.

At the present time we are not recommending any additional zones or areas. We feel that if we can get a clear understanding of what



to do or if we get these changes in the nets, which should make for clarification of how the enforcement will occur, that we have plenty of closed areas, so we feel like there will be at least 46 percent of the state closed to commercial fishing, and this should adequately take care of any chance of over-fishing or depleting the stock.

Now there were some miscellaneous things we ran into that need changing, and these are what they are.

In order for any of these regulations to work, or laws or whatever we are going to eventually call them, it is going to be silly to propose them without the appropriate penalties. If all we are going to have is a \$25 fine, we are not going to have any action, so we are going to try to beef up the penalty. The principal thing we are going to recommend is that the fines, whatever they be, be mandatory and that they are going to lose their gear, particularly if it is illegal gear, if it is fished unattended, if it is left out there overtime and so forth, and this goes either way.

We have another problem that we ran across



in the law. There is a law on the books which prevents the closing off of streams with netting or fishing gear totally. When that law was passed, there was an amendment or an addition to it that involved water control structures because the landowners on the coast which set in these water control structures themselves to control water on their land did not want this to be considered a fish dam and be outlawed by this net law, so that particular section of the law has been misconstrued in the courts. What has been done is that they have interpreted the thing that if you have a water control structure, it is perfectly permissible to go hang a net on it or across it right at that control structure, because the law says you can dam it off for the control structure. We are going to change this.

This was not the intent of the law. It was only to allow the water control structure. We are going to try to change the law to state that there be no netting or fishing of this type within 500 feet of any water control structure, dam or fixture. It might keep down a little shooting and



fighting out there.

The law has always required that commercial buyers, people like this, keep records on the catch by species, by amount, by month. Sometime in the past, because the National Marine Fisheries people and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others were taking statistics, there was an agreement made between the state that we would not necessarily require and enforce this and that they would do the statistics, but because of the terrible problem that we have in this state, trying to determine who is catching these fish, where the fish are going and how to regulate them, we are going to re-examine this law, and in the process of selling the licenses dealing with commercial fishing and fishbuying, we are going to require that these records be kept, and we are going to try to see that they are kept by the appropriate auditing and what-have-you.

Now this is going to require more people and more money to do this, to gather the data, but we feel like that since the funding that will be added because of the increased cost of fees and



licenses and what-have-you will be put in the Conservation Fund, we may be able to prevail on the legislature to let us line item some of this stuff and set up the appropriate duties.

We are going to require under Section 345 that there be monthly returns to the Commission by the dealer and to the responsible division should be assigned the tabulation duties of these data. If we don't get this stuff, we are going to have a thing in the law that the license the following year will not be issued.

Now a resident fish buyer license will be \$100 and a non-resident fish buyer's license is going to be \$1,000.

In order to carry out some of the stuff with the netting, we are going to recommend some changes in the definitions associated with sport and commercial fishing gear. These definitions here do not include the change in the size.

MR. SCHAFFER: No, the size will be under the size of the nets, which is also defined.

DR. ST. AMANT: Come over here and show me what you are talking about because I don't want



to say the wrong thing.

MR. SCHAFER: These are in different places.

DR. ST. AMANT: Oh, I see. These definitions include both. The fresh water gill net and any net of vegetable, animal or synthetic material, should be 1-1/2 inches to three inches and not more than 2,000 feet. This is freshwater, not saltwater area. Materials are set vertically, either in a stationary position or floating, with a mesh of such size and design as to be used primarily to catch fish around the gills.

Now saltwater gill net, which is going to be a new thing, you don't have that now, is any net, so forth, which catches fish around the gills, will have a minimum mesh size of a two-inch bar and a four-inch stretch and used primarily to catch fish around the gills, nets to be a maximum length of 1,200 feet.

Now we are going to delete some definitions and insert others. Fresh water seine, any net of vegetable, animal or synthetic material used to enclose or entrap fish when its ends are



pulled together or brought together, aboard a vessel within the water or ashore.

The definition of a saltwater seine is any net ashore having a maximum mesh size of  $3/4$  inch bar and 1-1/2 inch stretched, nets to be a maximum length of 1,200 feet.

Saltwater trammel net is an entanglement ...line with the smaller meshed wall of webbing being a maximum  $3/4$  inch bar and 1-1/2 inch stretched, and the other wall(s) having a minimum mesh size of 6-inch bar, 12-inch stretched, nets to be a maximum length of 1,200 feet with all walls being of equal length.

Now we are going to change the term fin-fish (noun): any of numerous cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates characteristically having a spindle-shaped body, swim by fins and breathe by gills, normally used for human consumption.

A fishing license, resident, any person under 16 years of age or over 16 years of age shall not be required to pay a fee for a noncommercial fishing license. However, they must apply for a free permit annually.



Now what we are doing here, we don't know how many kids we have got out there and we don't know how many over 60 are in this category of recreational fishermen. We want a count on them. So, while they can fish free, they are going to have to come in each year and identify themselves and get a piece of paper. That way we will get a count on them. Some of the older people will die and get out of the way and the young ones will move up, but we want to get a fix on what we are dealing with across the board with the recreational people.

Now this constitutes the basic recommendations that we have come up with. I am sure that they will not satisfy either side totally or completely and I am not certain that they will satisfy the legislators who have directed us to do this work. I assume I am correct, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Angelle, in stating that we will present this to the appropriate people. This does not prevent anyone who disagrees with it from taking his own position with the legislature. Is that correct?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I am sorry, I didn't --





DR. ST. AMANT: I just said I assume this is our basic position that we are going to present to the legislature and the appropriate people. This is the best that we have been able to come up with. It does not prevent any people who disagree with us from taking their own positions to the legislature.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It is up for Commission consideration again and I am sure the Chairman will probably open it for discussion and try to get some further input from the people in the audience and the members of the Commission and the staff and whoever else.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's see the hands. Let's get on with it.

MR. DUPUY: Burt, I think what Doc was getting at was that presently we have some statutory control and some regulations and we are now recommending to the legislature either that this all be statutory or all be regulatory, and if it is regulatory then it will be necessary to repeal some existing statutes and to then establish new regulations. I think this is where the problem is.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is a correct observation, Mr. Dupuy, and I plan to ask the legislature, whatever they do, that it would be statutory authority rather than Commission regulation, because of the enforcement problems that we have with regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to make any comments at this time? Would you please come up to the podium?

MR. WILSON BOURGEOIS: What I want to ask Dr. St. Amant, on the saltwater seine, if they have the size on the webbing itself, in other words, three-inch or 3-3/4 inch on the size of the webbing, like No. 6 or No. 7, or are they going to put like 15? Could you answer that? What I am saying, on a saltwater seine, Doc said --

DR. ST. AMANT: The recommendation is for 3/4 inch on the bar and 1-1/2 inch stretched.

MR. BOURGEOIS: Oh, all right, 1-1/2 inch stretched. Now that is the smallest, but you can go larger?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, that is the top, the maximum.



MR. BOURGEOIS: You can go smaller?

DR. ST. AMANT: There is going to be a gap between the seine and the gill net, so there will be no question when we go out there to check. You are either going to be fishing with a seine or you are going to be fishing with a gill net. There is not going to be any in-between. This is the maximum size on the seine, 3/4 inch, 1-1/2 stretched.

MR. BOURGEOIS: Well, you see me and Mr. Naquin understood it different, that you could go, in other words, larger, but not smaller. Well, I tell you, if you get inch and a half with a stretch on a trammel net, saltwater trammel net, seine, you can tell the legislature to close it altogether, because I know something about the webbing.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Repeat that.

MR. BOURGEOIS: If you all go with the proposal that, you know, Dr. St. Amant and them has got over here on a saltwater seine or a trammel net, inch and a half stretched, you just will catch like trash fish and stuff like that and you can close it altogether, because I know something about webbing. In other words, what you all want to do



is to close the trammel net and the seine is going to be open altogether.

MR. JONES: What should the mesh be?

MR. BOURGEOIS: On trammel nets? Not less than two inches, not more than three.

MR. JONES: Bar or stretched.

MR. BOURGEOIS: Stretched. On the bar that would be one inch on the bar and two-inch stretch.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: On saltwater seine?

MR. BOURGEOIS: On trammel net and seine.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: One and two?

MR. BOURGEOIS: Right. Now, wait. Let me get Doc's point across. When you are talking about a saltwater seine, an inch and a half stretch. Now Doc is not saying what size the webbing should be, if it is No. 6, No. 9, No. 12 or 15. Now, get me right, Mr. Schafer and Doc, I am telling you all, if you can go up to a 1,200 foot seine, an inch and a half with No. 15 and No. 12, you can catch a lot of shrimp with it, along the beaches, or in the closed season. Right. So, get back on the trammel net and the seine, an inch and a half



stretch, that is all they can go, three-quarter inch bar, you can close it altogether. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. NAQUIN: Leave it open. I will borrow that seine and go shrimping with it!

DR. ST. AMANT: Now, wait a minute. Let me explain what we attempted to do, and you are right. We did it to try to clarify, and I don't know whether this is going to stand along the line, we are trying to clarify the question in these areas in Terrebonne and Lafourche and it is going to be now in Jefferson Parish as to whether or not you are going to catch fish by the gills.

Now with a bigger than three-quarter inch seine, you would use it as a gill net. That is the way you catch those fish, and you do it also with a trammel net, and that is why we have trouble down there enforcing it. It is not us that said those areas were closed. We are trying to determine whether it is in the interest of this state to close those areas, and what we are saying and we said it when we opened this thing up, that our recommendation is, if you are going to close it,



let's close it; if you are going to open it, let's open it to everything, including gill nets.

What we are trying to find out here is just what is meant by this particular existing law. Now let me get this straight. If anyone has a better approach to this thing, I am certain that both this Commission and the legislature would be happy to listen to you, but where the problem is, and you know it as well as I do, the legislature passed a law that says Terrebonne Parish, Lafourche Parish, and so forth, are closed to gill netting.

When we get in an enforcement situation, you are still catching a mountain of fish down there. You are catching almost as many speckled trout as you always caught, using these other systems. As far as we are concerned, it is perfectly good and it is perfectly legal and we can't enforce it but we get severely criticized. Mainly what we are trying to do is either one or the other, revise the law some way or change the mesh webbing, the mesh sizes, so that we can identify these things.

MR. LAPEYRE: Is a seine and a trammel net with inch and a half stretched mesh illegal now?



DR. ST. AMANT: No, it is not illegal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant, in order to distinguish between the different nets which you are talking about, could they not be color coded, required to be color coded, some portions of it, where you could distinguish it?

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, we had one other definition which was presented in the meetings by the recreational interests, and that is that no net would be allowed in these areas that caught fish by the gills, regardless of what kind of net.

MR. NORMAN NAQUIN: First of all, if you are going to a seine or a gill net or a trammel net with an inch and a quarter bar you would be switching it and making it legal for shrimping instead of fishing. To distinguish a seine from a trammel net -- and Randolph LaBauve is not here today and he won't argue with nobody -- a seine has no outer wall, a trammel net has an outer wall, so those two are different.

The gill net is usually made of monofilament, which is your big mesh, so you have your difference. You have your single wall, you have your



double wall for a trammel net, you have what you recommended, four-inch bar, which is a little bit big, for a gill net, which is the monofilament. Of course, you could also use nylon on the four-inch bar, it doesn't make no difference.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Two-inch bar on the gill net, monofilament. Four-inch stretch.

MR. NAQUIN: Four-inch stretch. I have one objection to four-inch stretch. The seafood boxes only come I think three foot and with a four-inch stretch, the fish won't fit in the boxes, too big.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naquin, you said one thing a while ago. You said normally this is how they are made.

MR. NAQUIN: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: But you know and I know that if we don't tie it down a little bit tighter than that, that they aren't going to be doing the normal thing so they can get around the law, come next week or next year when this law becomes effective.

MR. NAQUIN: Well, when you put this in





law, a seine is a single wall with the smaller mesh, like he said, inch and a quarter, which I am against because it would become a shrimp seine. I would go to at least two and a half inches, stretched, and your trammel net has three walls, one center, small mesh, your two outer walls are big. When you go to the gill net, it is your four-inch which you recommended, stretched. You can't convert them either way. If you have the single wall small mesh, it is a seine. Single wall small mesh with two outer walls is a trammel net, and if you go to four-inch stretch, it is a gill net. If you try to make it any different just by the size of the webbing, somebody is going to cheat somewhere. They are going to convert a fish net into a shrimp seine, which would be legal to catch.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That's the problem.

MR. NAQUIN: It's not illegal, even in closed season like we are now? I will be fishing for fish and if I catch shrimp I will keep them. It is legal to go to 100 foot. You are talking about 1,200 here.

FROM THE FLOOR: With a 1,200 foot seine



you can pick up a lot of shrimp with that.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Naquin, your first recommendation was on saltwater seine, saltwater trammel net would be one inch and two inch. Two inch bar, or one inch bar and two inch stretch?

MR. NAQUIN: Three-inch stretch.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I am talking about saltwater seine and saltwater trammel net. The recommendation was 3/4 inch bar and 1-1/2 inch stretch, and the same thing with the trammel net. You said this is not feasible. Your recommendation is one-inch bar and two-inch stretch, in both saltwater seine and the saltwater trammel net, is that correct?

MR. BOURGEOIS: Mr. Burt, what they could do, in other words to stop from gilling the fish, they would have to go a larger size in the twine.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: This is what this is all about and hopefully we can come up with some type of political, biological compromise that we can go to the legislature and everybody knows where they stand. Right now it is really pell-mell, and if we don't come up with some recommendations,



somebody is going to get hurt, either the commercial interests or the recreational interests, but if we can compromise something, then maybe you people can co-exist and everybody makes a living and everybody catches a fish.

DR. ST. AMANT: They tell me that we can go to one and two inches, as they recommend, on seines and trammel nets provided we go to the other size on gill nets, because we need a space between them.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: What other sizes?

DR. ST. AMANT: One inch bar, two inch on the seines, instead of  $3/4$ , and one inch and two inch on the inner wall of the trammel nets, but we stay with the gill net at two inches. That will give us a space between then, so we will know how to identify them in the field.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bernard. Mr. Bernard is the President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

MR. BERNARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission, Mr. Secretary, Dr. St. Amant, I will be very frank. I come here as



the president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, representing the sportsmen and sports interests in the State of Louisiana.

I do not intend to go into any particulars of the proposals which you gentlemen have made today because I don't feel, without some review, evaluation by the members of my organization, that I can independently speak anything other than my own mind, but I will say one thing. I am very disheartened and I am very discouraged. We have been at this issue for a considerable period of time. We have had public hearings throughout the state. It was my idea and understanding that we were going to see something of a positive nature come out of these hearings and come out of this Commission, but we apparently are at the same old stalemate. We have progressed no further than we were before.

I can only say this. In listening to Dr. St. Amant, and I am not talking about the particulars of his proposal and his plan, but I am talking about more of his general conclusions that he reached, and what he said about the interests and the different conflicts. It leave me very



discouraged. I find and I think I have a different attitude about what the commercial fishermen and what the sports fishermen are trying to do, with one another and together or against one another, compared to what the staff apparently feels is an impasse. Possibly it is.

However, the only thing I can say is this. Four years ago, or maybe even five years ago, sportsmen began to say we are having some kind of problem, let's do something with it, let's try and see what is going to happen. For four years we have heard the same old thing, that there is no biological data, there is no information, there is nothing. We are still at that same particular point in time. When are we going to progress? When is the staff going to get off the fence and either say, sportsmen, you are wrong. These nets can be 5,000 feet long, they can be indefinitely used, and they will not hurt the population at all, and here is the biological data. Or when are they going to say that there is some regulation that needs to be done?

Apparently we have gone past the stage



of nothing. We are all talking about some form of regulation, so at least that is progress. But we have to face also the realities, the realities of what you are talking about that has happened in Jefferson, Lafourche, Terrebonne, the realities of the very recent act which was passed, even though it probably has no constitutional authority, but it shows what is happening in the state, the act that was passed by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, outlawing monofilament netting, period.

A very similar act which would have been passed at a police jury meeting in Iberia Parish that I attended, were it not for the fact that I thought they were impinging upon the authority of the state and your Commission. This is the general attitude that we see around the state.

Now, if we don't get together and come up with something, I can tell you definitely that the sportsmen of this state are going to go to the legislature and their pitch is going to be to outlaw monofilament netting, period. If we can get together and work out something prior to that time and prior to these bills being introduced in



the legislature and us supporting those bills, I personally am strongly in favor of that, but I think that we have to come out with something positive now, and I am very discouraged that after all of the hearings that we haven't. Hopefully, we will progress somewhere further.

Thank you for the brief opportunity to speak. I took a little longer than I wanted to.

One other point, I would like to introduce myself, as I did, as the incoming president. I think I know most of you gentlemen on the Commission. I personally look forward to being able to work with you throughout the coming year and hopefully on issues not as volatile as this particular issue and that can be worked out much better.

I would like to make one comment with regard to Richard Yancey's proposal and presentation with regard to the Atchafalaya Bay area, and urge you gentlemen to strongly consider this proposal. It has the potential for real greatness, for a recreational area for our people. It is hard to comprehend right now a recreational area



that consists of saltwater, but we all know what is going to happen in that area. You gentlemen are familiar with the Placide Oil case and the various things, and we commend you for the work you have done in providing game management areas. We hope that in the future we can satisfy the people in the western part of the state with some additional upland game management areas and an increased and enhanced quail program, and we hope that you will take a very serious look at this matter, too.

Thank you, gentlemen.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Henry, being very serious --

MR. BERNARD: Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: -- besides the total banning of monofilament gill nets, what is it that we have left out in some of these recommendations here that we are going to the legislature with?

MR. BERNARD: Well, as I say, with regard to the particular recommendations, I would be only commenting as an individual, but I think that the philosophy that I have heard, you know, everything





that I have heard so far is, well, we are going to do this, anyway, but there is no justification for it. I personally believe that if you go to the legislature, gentlemen, with a proposal that you say this is what we are going to do but we can't justify it, this is what I have heard today, that it is not a positive approach.

I have no objections to the various proposals that you all have set forth so far. I think that along these lines and guidelines, something very adequate can be worked out. However, if we boil down into the same discussion of what is a gill net, what is a trammel net, what is a seine, and we don't get clearcut definitions of those to where we run into the same problem that they are having in Terrebonne and Lafourche, I think this is going to continue.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: In our recommendations we have these clearcut definitions we feel that are positive steps.

THE CHAIRMAN: Henry, have you read this thing?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I am just wondering,



besides total banning of monofilament gill net, how can you stand up there and say we are not taking a positive step toward solving the problem.

MR. BERNARD: What I am saying is that each time a question is asked to you there doesn't seem to be any rebuttal to the particular questions, and from what I understand, from what you gentlemen have said here, that the various nettings, the sizing and everything else is all open to total question, that this is just a mere proposal. Now maybe I misunderstand what you all are talking about, but apparently, you know, from the questions of the commercial interests here today, they say, well, you know, this netting, and we are back to netting size discussions, webbing, and these are the things that I thought were worked out and you had a positive proposal.

Now, if what you have proposed is, you know, your final and positive proposal, then I think you all have worked something out.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: I think Mr. Angelle has



adequately taken care of that. I don't think I need to answer any of this.

MR. HARLAN PIERCE: My name is Harlan Pierce. I am the general manager for the Battistella Seafoods in the City of New Orleans. I am speaking here today in behalf of the Louisiana Retail Seafood Dealers -- excuse me, the Louisiana Dealers Association, not retail association.

To start out with, we are of the opinion that we are not overfishing our waters. We stand behind our biologists 100 percent but we will try and legislate or try and talk about overfishing merely because of the people management type of aspect, to try and help solve a problem that we have had in the past 10 or 15 years.

First of all, to make this stand out even a little further, in 1976 the commercial catch of speckled trout was up about 40 percent, according to the National Marine Fisheries survey this year. The sport catch on speckled trout was about 23 million whereas the commercial catch was about 2.3 million on trout. Redfish, I think the sport catch was 24 million. I don't have the figures on the



redfish and the trout right now.

As far as the proposal that the Wild Life and Fisheries have put before us today, I believe this is definitely a positive step in the right direction because, number one, they are definitely trying to limit the gill net and they are definitely trying to limit the catching of our fish and limit the fishery, so this is definitely a positive step. I am not in complete agreement with some of the things they are saying but in a lot of the things I am in complete agreement.

I can start out with the licenses. Number one, I believe that instead of a \$250 seller commercial license, we should have a \$500 license, but allow the net fees to remain the same as they have been in the past. The reason behind this is, if I take it right, Mr. Angelle, the \$250 license plus a \$250 gear license would mean a \$250 license for every net that you would use, is that correct?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, sir.

MR. PIERCE: Just one \$250 license then?  
O. K., then I misunderstood. Then this in essence



is the same thing I am talking about then, and that would be fine, but I thought that you maybe meant that you would have to have a \$250 license for every trammel net or every gill net. That is just a one-time gear license? O. K., fine, we are in complete agreement with that. That is perfectly acceptable to us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Put that in the record, somebody finally agreed with us!!

(Laughter)

MR. PIERCE: Well, we really feel that you are trying to go in the right direction and we are trying to do the best we can to give our help to aim in this direction also.

We believe that again you should establish a saltwater gill net license which has definitely been needed in the past. It takes all the problems of the freshwater seine out of it and everything like that, so that is good also.

We believe that the non-resident license of \$750 plus a \$500 gear license is a very fine figure. We don't believe that we are being punitive. I think this is just going to enhance our



fishery that much more in the state and allow them to catch more fish.

Saltwater sport license, \$5 and the \$2 freshwater is completely acceptable to us. The non-resident \$25 and the 7-day \$10 permit is perfectly acceptable to us.

On the creel limit, we wanted to go with a little different creel limit with the Louisiana Dealers Association. We wanted 50 fish, no more than 25 of any one species, to try again to cut back on the taking of any one of the two crops, mainly the trout and redfish.

We wanted to hold the sizes a little higher on the speckled trout, to 14 inches, rather than to what it is now, 10 inches, I believe, and I will give my reasons for that in a few minutes. On the redfish we go with the 14-inch small and the 36-inch maximum, which is really close to what the Commission has been talking about the whole time.

I believe now the next thing that you talked about was the gill net. Now I am going to be in a little disagreement on a two-inch gill net because a two-inch gill net is going to catch trout



that will run about 19 or 20 inches. This is about a three-pound fish. Now, as far as year classes go, this is about your seven or eight-year class speckled trout, which means we are not catching anything under six years old. Now this represents approximately 33 percent of our crop, our seven-year class or above, which means we are not fishing, there is 70 percent of our crop that we are not even getting to. I really feel that this is going to limit the commercial fisherman quite a bit.

If you go with 1-5/8 inch mesh which we want to have, 3-1/4 inch stretch, you are going to catch only your five-year class or better. This is about a 16 or 17-inch fish and would allow us to catch about 60 percent of the fish that are in the water, still leaving 40 percent in the water, leaving the first four year classes still in the water. Now we want 1-5/8 inch for another reason also. We believe that your heaviest breeders are your 10 to 14-inch fish, not by number of eggs but by number of fish, because there are more 10 to 14-inch fish in the water than there are five or



six pound fish, because they just die, they don't last but eight or ten years tops, and the males don't even last eight years half the time.

If we allow the heavy breeders to stay in the water, we feel that this would propagate the species properly and you will see more fish the next year. That is one of the reasons we are in favor of 1-5/8 inch flat, 3-1/4 inch stretched, because we believe it will just give us a shot at 60 percent, not the whole works, 60 percent of the population that we have. We won't be able to catch any of the first four year classes. If we go with the two-inch stretch mesh, it is going to give us only the seven, eight, nine year classes, which there are hardly any in the water. There are not that many of the seven, eight, nine year class around, when you look at the mortality tables.

The next thing was the attended and unattended nets. We are in complete agreement with you that all nets should be attended other than those that are gill nets or maybe the shark nets, since we are in a shark fishery now. We believe that a gar and a shark net are almost one and the





same but we believe that any gill net that is used for anything other than this should be attended. They should be watched, because otherwise you are going to have bad fish and spoiled fish if they can't get out to the nets because of bad weather, we are again in agreement with the Commission on this aspect of it.

We are definitely doing something positive. In rebuttal to Mr. Bernard's statement, we are definitely working ahead. Our fishery has needed controls on it, if not gill net controls, other controls, for a long time.

One thing I skipped was the length of the net. I would like to go with a 1,600 foot net rather than a 1,200 foot net. That is dropping it from 2,000 to 1,600, from what it already is now.

Another thing we are in favor of are the substantial fines for both buyer and seller. We would like to see them get some good stiff fines and confiscation of gear when they do something wrong, and we would like to funnel these increases directly back to the Wild Life and Fisheries, if we can possibly do this, to give you some more



funds to back up or give you the backbone to do what you have to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are all in favor of that!

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The backbone!

MR. PIERCE: Well, that is the fishing fine. You are going to have to fine the buyer. I don't know how, you can confiscate maybe the fish; if he has bought it already, you can take his fish that he has bought. Other than that, a stiff fine would be in order, because I believe both buyer and seller should be punished. There may be a time that you will walk into a building that has got 10, 12-inch trout per se, if you have a 14-inch limit. Then he, the buyer, should be definitely responsible for that under-14-inch fish, if we would go with something like that.

14-inch across the board, we would like to see that. We definitely would like to see that.

In summary, that is pretty much what I had to say. Only one other comment I would like to make. In the Greater New Orleans area alone we have a \$581 million tourist business which is



directly related to our seafood industry. Of this \$581 million, \$40 million is taxes, so we do have some dollars behind the commercial industry as well as the sport industry does with its boats.

A few other figures. In 1965 you had 67,000 registered boats in our state. In the first six months of 76 you have got 237,000. A pretty good increase in ten years, when your commercial fisherman increase has been only 660 from '65 to 1884 in '75.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is not a true reflection. That is because it was extended to cover the 10 horsepower and under, so that is not a true reflection, this increase in the number of boats.

MR. PIERCE: O. K., these are figures I had gotten out of the office.

MR. LUTTRELL: I would like to ask a question.

MR. PIERCE: Sure. Yes, sir.

MR. LUTTRELL: Clarification. I believe I understood you to say you had hoped for a creel limit of 50 fish, in any combination.



MR. PIERCE: No, sir. No more than 25 of any one species.

MR. LUTTRELL: I see, no more than 25.

MR. PIERCE: Because we feel if you are going to limit the fishery, the redfish as well as the trout should be limited. Therefore, you would not allow them to catch more of any type species.

MR. LUTTRELL: That is the part I didn't get.

MR. PIERCE: Other than that, I would like to thank the Wild Life and Fisheries for all the trouble they have gone through in the past year, the five meetings they have subjected themselves to, and we appreciate the stress that they have been under and we are glad to see that they are coming out and doing something. Even though we are not in full agreement, we are pretty well in agreement with everything they have to do, and we will give them all of our support. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think this Board is in shock; somebody finally agreed with us!

MR. DUPUY: Dr. St. Amant, you made no recommendation with regard to a 14-inch or any



other limit, size limit on speckled trout. This gentleman made that suggestion. What are your thoughts on that?

DR. ST. AMANT: We had considered this but we ran into the problem that if you are using gill net or any net that seriously injures the fish, if the net sizes are appropriately designed, whatever size they might be, they should be selective and the fish they catch should be used on the market. To try to throw the fish back is going to do no good. He will probably be dead, anyhow. Just like dead shrimp or something, when you throw them back.

We put a top limit on the redfish on the poles. We did not put a bottom limit and we didn't put any limits on the size of the fish for the recreational fishermen because we put a creel limit on them. We are doing the same thing to them in effect as we are doing with different mesh sizes. We put a 50-fish limit on them a day, and we figure that they are going to bring them in. They have a choice, they can cull them and take a bigger one if they want, but they can't come in



with over 50. I think that since you have a creel limit, it is a positive step.

Now I think the question of monofilament webbing as opposed to other types is going to be an issue for a long time, but I think it should be recognized that what we are doing, you have a choice. You can either outlaw monofilament and allow all other nets to be operated everywhere in the state, or you can turn the thing around, and you can outlaw all netting in a certain portion of the state, which we have done and which we are trying to clarify in certain other areas, and in those areas that are open, it would appear to be only reasonable to use equipment which is efficient and modern and light and everything else.

It is true that monofilament is more efficient. It is also true it is more efficient to fish with a rod and reel than monofilament. I don't think the Wild Life Commission can get in a position of recommending that we go backward in time. It is necessary maybe to regulate. It may even be necessary sometimes to close completely or set seasons or reduce catches or set allocations.



or do all kinds of other things.

I think what this does is positive. I think if we get these licenses, if we can identify the people involved, we can begin to get the statistics on the catch from the commercial people definitely, and that we can finally establish, which we are going to have to do, if we can find the people and the money, creel censuses on the recreational fish. Then you are going to develop your own data. You are going to present to us what you are catching and we will be able to count it and it will be there for everybody to see.

Then maybe two or three years down the line if there is some clear evidence that one group or the other is overfishing or one group or the other is hurting the catch or that we haven't allocated equally, these rules and regulations can be changed, but you have got to start somewhere, and I think this is an appropriate start.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish to be heard?

MR. DUPUY: I would like to ask one final question. With regard to the difference in fresh-



water gill net and saltwater gill net, freshwater inch and a half bar and three-inch stretch, and 2,000 in length, why is it necessary that it be more liberal for a freshwater gill net than for saltwater?

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Dupuy, we weren't addressing the freshwater problems, of which there may be many, but they were not involved in the act. We were directed to deal with specific fish, and the freshwater net size and problems have been a problem in the legislature for years, and I think this is about all we can handle at one time.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I don't know whether I can handle this one! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Let biting dogs sleep, Marc. For God's sake, don't kick him.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I move we adopt the recommendations of Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Wait a minute!

THE CHAIRMAN: It's not Dr. St. Amant's recommendations. These are the recommendations of this Commission. Let me protect Dr. St. Amant now and tell you that these recommendations are the





result of five, long, hard, tedious meetings and the input this Commission has had, and believe me, this is not Dr. St. Amant's baby. That is our baby that we put together and he has just been the doctor who brought it into the world.

MR. LUTTRELL: Doc, at least we got them all awake, didn't we?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Luttrell, I understand your motion --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Would that be changing the three-quarter to one-inch, dealing with the salt-water trammel and saltwater seine that this gentleman brought to our attention, talking about maybe a change to what we put together here today?

MR. DUPUY: Yes, I think that's good.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Jones, I was addressing it to you.

MR. JONES: Mr. Luttrell made the motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: If I do, I want to change, Doc. I was just arousing people.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You aroused Doc for sure!

MR. BOURGEOIS: Doc, that is what I was



talking about, that seine. I am just trying in other words to get something not so they have a loophole. That is the thing I am getting at, along the beaches when the shrimp is going to be there and going to be plentiful, with an inch and a half stretched, three-quarter inch bar --

DR. ST. AMANT: If the shrimp season is open, you can have at it. If the shrimp season is closed and we catch you catching the shrimp, we are going to take your seine away from you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It is open all year round along the beaches.

DR. ST. AMANT: Off the beaches and you fish out 750 feet, if that is the continuing law, you can catch all the shrimp you want all year long with that seine. Inside the beach, get inside 750 feet, get inside in the closed area when the season is closed, you are illegal, period.

Now that doesn't mean it can't be changed.

MR. BOURGEOIS: They can make that with fine, fine webbing with monofilament and then you still can gill your fish with your trammel net and your saltwater seine.



DR. ST. AMANT: You may be right. I am not saying you can't find loopholes. We are trying to find a way out of these loopholes. It may not be right and we may have to change our minds. All I am saying at the present time this is the best information we came up with and I suppose, Mr. Angelle, they have a right to challenge this.

THE CHAIRMAN: When we make a recommendation to the legislature, you can bet your bottom dollar when they get through with it, we won't recognize it.

MR. LUTTRELL: Since it is my motion and since you are still working on it, let me clarify the motion. I would suggest that we go with this as presented and change it if it should be recommended by our biologists, and if not recommended by the biologists, we will leave it just as it is. That would be the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Any more discussion? All in favor say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

Is there any other business to be taken up today?

I will entertain a motion to adjourn and we stand adjourned.

. . . . Whereupon, at 1:35

o'clock p.m., Tuesday, April 26,

1977, the meeting was adjourned. . . .

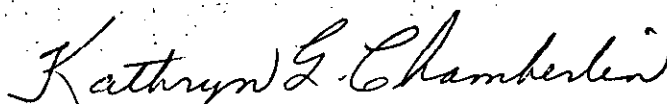
Kathryn G. Chamberlin,  
Reporter.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (155 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape recording and of the stenographic notes of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 8th day of  
June, 1977.



Kathryn G. Chamberlin,  
Reporter.



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LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
P. O. BOX 44095  
CAPITOL STATION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Policy: 09-02  
Date: April 26, 1977

Subject: Dress Uniform Regulations -- Game Division

1. Purpose: To establish consistent rules and regulations for wearing the dress uniform.
2. Applicability: The rules and regulations shall apply to all Game Division personnel authorized to wear the dress uniform and will be in effect at all times when the uniform is worn.
3. General: The following regulations set forth the required manner in which the dress uniform will be worn while on official duty. Non-uniform type clothing may be worn while on official duty as the need dictates and when the situation warrants such attire.
  - A. Coat (Blazer): To be worn as issued, clean, pressed and neat at all times. The dress uniform will be based around the coat, all other wearing apparel will match the coat (blazer) for color coordination. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries emblem will be worn on left pocket or side. Name plate will be worn over the Department patch.
  - B. Shirt (Short sleeve summer): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times. When issued shirts are not available, shirt matching coat (blazer), pants and tie will be worn. All buttons will be fastened and matching tie will be worn.

- C. Shirt (Long sleeve winter): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times. All buttons to be fastened and matching tie will be worn. When issued shirts are not available, shirt matching coat (blazer), tie and pants will be worn. Weather and working conditions will dictate when long sleeve shirts will be worn.
- D. Tie: The issued tie will be worn. When issued ties are not available, a tie matching coat (blazer) with shirt and pants will be worn. The tie will be worn in such a manner as to conceal the collar buttons.
- E. Belt: To be plain, solid color to match coat, pants, shirt and tie with no ornamentation.
- F. Pants (Trousers): To be worn as issued, clean and pressed and neat at all times. When issued pants are not available, pants matching coat (blazer), shirt and tie will be worn.
- G. Fire Arm Belt: To be black without ornamentation. To be worn when situation dictates.
- H. Headgear: No official hat will be issued or required. A hat matching the dress uniform may be worn in inclement weather or for other protection.
- I. Footwear: Shoes, clean and polished will be worn to match issued dress uniform.
- J. Socks: Solid color socks matching pants, shirt, tie and coat (blazer) are to be worn. Medical exemption required for white socks.

K. Badge: To be worn as the duty or assignment requires. When worn, it will be displayed over the left pocket or side above the nameplate.

L. Department Emblem and Division Patch: Department emblem on the coat will be on left pocket or side or as issued. Department emblems on the shirt will be worn as issued or to be centered on left sleeve one inch below the shoulder seam. Division patch will be worn above left pocket or as issued.

M. Name Plate: To be worn on left side of shirt or jacket above pocket.

4. Responsibility:

A. Each supervisor is responsible to assure conformance with the provisions of this policy.

B. Spot inspections may be made in the field at any time by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Chief, Assistant Chief, or Supervisors of the Game Division.


C. The dress uniform is to be worn for public meetings, public appearances, (Civic Clubs, school groups, wildlife clubs, church groups, etc. ) T.V. programs, etc.

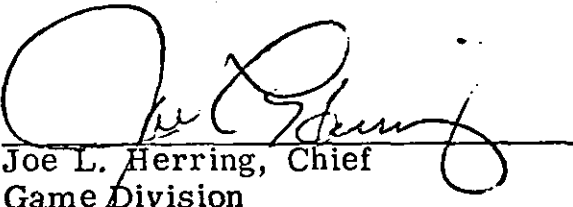
D. Each employee is responsible for being clean shaven with hair neatly groomed. Uniforms are to be neat, clean and pressed with all metal polished and all leather shined.

E. Any employee violating any of the provisions of this policy is



subject to disciplinary action. Violations which reflect discredit to the uniform or resulting in embarrassment to the Department may subject the offender to dismissal.

  
J. Burton Angelle, Secretary  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

  
Joe L. Herring, Chief  
Game Division

Approved by Commission Action April 26, 1977

Copies to:

Secretary  
Assistant Secretaries  
Personnel Section  
All Game Division Personnel

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 44095  
CAPITOL STATION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Policy: 09-01

Date: April 26, 1977

Subject: Field work uniform regulations--Game Division

1. Purpose: To establish consistent rules and regulations for wearing the field work uniforms.
2. Applicability: These rules and regulations shall apply to all Game Division personnel authorized to wear the field work uniform and will be in effect at all times when the uniform is worn.
3. General: The following regulations set for the required manner in which the field work uniform will be worn while on official duty. Uniform type clothing may be worn while on official duty as the need dictates and when the situation warrants such attire. The issued coveralls may be worn separately or over non-uniform clothing as appropriate when official duty or work is being performed.
  - A. Headgear: A bill-type cap will be supplied for field work or as issued, and may be worn during official duty time in the field. Safety headgear will be worn as duty requires.
  - B. Shirt (Short sleeve summer): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times (exception will be those performing support duties that will not allow them to

keep clean, i. e. mechanic, heavy equipment operation, construction workers, farm work, etc.) All buttons to be fastened (collar excepted). Black tie may or may not be worn at the individual's option based on official duty.

C. Shirt (Long sleeve winter): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times (exception as noted above). All buttons to be fastened. Black neckties will be worn as dictated by type of official duty, i. e. checking game breeders, public appearances, all personnel making or contacting the public. Weather and working conditions will dictate when long sleeve shirts will be worn.

D. Tie: A solid black tie to be worn in such a manner that the collar button cannot be seen. Substitute ties will not be worn.

E. Fire Arm Belt: To be black without ornamentation.

F. Belt to Hold Trousers: To be black without ornamentation.

G. Trousers: To be worn as issued, clean and pressed and neat at all times (exception for personnel as noted above).

H. Jacket: Winter--to be worn as issued as dictated by weather condition.

I. Footwear: Plain shoes or boots, clean and polished when duties do not require dirty or heavy field work. Safety work shoes or boots or deck-type footwear is approved for field activities requiring this type. Deck shoes, rubber boots,

hip boots or waders as dictated by field work duties will be permitted.

J. Socks: When low quarter shoes are worn, socks will be solid color to match uniform. Medical exemption required for white socks.

K. Jumpsuit - Coveralls: To be worn as issued. They may be worn in the field as work uniform or over two-piece field uniform as conditions warrant.

L. Badge: To be worn as the duty or assignment requires. When worn, it will be displayed over the left pocket or side of the shirt or jacket.

M. Department Emblem and Division Patch: To be centered on left sleeve one inch below the shoulder seam or as issued. The emblem on the field cap will be centered on the crown of the cap above the bill.

N. Name Plate: To be worn on left side of shirt or jacket above pocket.

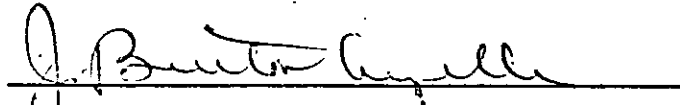
4. Responsibility:

A. Each supervisor is responsible to assure conformance with the provisions of this policy.

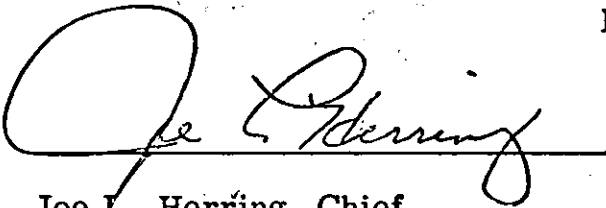
B. Spot inspections may be made in the field at any time by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Division Chief, Assistant Chief or Supervisors of the Game Division.

C. Each employee is responsible for being clean shaven with hair neatly groomed. Uniforms are to be neat, clean and pressed with all metal polished and all leather shined.

- D. Uniforms will be worn as issued. A uniform shirt or pants will not be worn in combinations with jeans or other mixed apparel.
- E. Commercial type emblems are not to be worn on cap or uniform.
- F. Any employee violating any of the provisions of this policy is subject to disciplinary action. Violations which reflect discredit to the uniform or result in embarrassment to the Department may subject the offenders to dismissal.



J. Burton Angelle, Secretary  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



Joe L. Herring, Chief  
Game Division

Approved by Commission Action April 26, 1977.

Copies to:

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